

State of Oregon  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**Relationship to Federal Requirements**

Water Quality Standards Revision, West Division Main Canal near Hermiston, Oregon

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*Answers to the following questions identify how the proposed rulemaking relates to federal requirements and the justification for differing from, or adding to, federal requirements. This statement is required by OAR 340-011-0029(1).*

**1. Is the proposed rulemaking different from, or in addition to, applicable federal requirements? If so, what are the differences or additions?**

The proposed rule, if approved by EPA, would result in the change of a water quality standards established under the federal Clean Water Act. Under the CWA, states establish water quality standards and these standards then become federal requirements when and if approved by EPA. The proposed rule makes the water quality standards for the WDMC less stringent.

**2. If the proposal differs from, or is in addition to, applicable federal requirements, explain the reasons for the difference or addition (including as appropriate, the public health, environmental, scientific, economic, technological, administrative or other reasons).**

The draft proposed rule revisions are needed to correct and more accurately designate beneficial uses and their associated water quality criteria for the West Division Main Canal (WDMC). The current beneficial uses were broadly designated for the area, including uses that are not existing or feasibly attainable in the canal. In addition, the corrected standards, which are less stringent, make possible the planned discharge of treated wastewater by the City of Hermiston to the canal.

**3. If the proposal differs from, or is in addition to, applicable federal requirements, did DEQ consider alternatives to the difference or addition? If so, describe the alternatives and the reason(s) they were not pursued.**

DEQ considered not revising the standards for the WDMC. Ultimately, the DEQ concluded that the existing standards include erroneous beneficial use designations and inappropriately stringent criteria.