



TAB

Technical Assistance to
Brownfield Communities



[New year, new \(proposed\) standards!](#)

By: [Elise Molleur](#), Brownfields Redevelopment Specialist, NJIT TAB, Center for Community Systems, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

On January 2, 2024, the [NJ Department of Environmental Protection](#) (NJDEP) released a proposal for the amendment of the Groundwater Quality Standards (GWQS) to update the specific groundwater quality criteria and/or practical quantitation levels (PQLs) for 73 constituents of Class II-A groundwater based on the US EPA methodologies and the best available scientific information. The proposed updates will change the constituent standards for 65 of the 73 constituents. Of the 65 proposed GWQS, 50 will become more stringent, 13 will become less stringent, and two are for constituents that currently have interim generic groundwater quality criteria. There will be no updates to the GWQS for an additional eight constituents. The proposed amendments would make the following seven constituent standards more stringent by one or more order of magnitude, including: 1,1 biphenyl; Cobalt; Cyanide (free); 1,3-dichlorobenzene (meta); Heptachlor epoxide; Methoxychlor; and Vinyl Chloride. This would trigger the "order of magnitude" provision of the Brownfield and Contaminated Site Act, which may require entities or responsible individuals of a contaminated site to perform further or additional assessment and remediation. Additionally, the NJDEP is proposing to add language at N.J.A.C. 7:9C-1.7(c)3i to enable the NJDEP to update the specific groundwater quality criterion for a constituent with a corresponding Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) rules, if the NJDEP determines that the "weight of evidence" approach would better address the risk posed by the constituent than the health based level used

to establish the MCL. The NJDEP is holding a virtual Public Hearing on January 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM. Public Comments are due to the NJDEP by March 2, 2024 and can be submitted [online here](#) or by written submission that is to be mailed to:

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The full NJDEP Proposal can be found [here](#). Additionally, [JD Supra](#) released [this article](#) on January 8, 2024 that breaks down several key points of the technical proposal for easier reading.



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