

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
NOTICE OF HEARING AND COMMENTS
FOR TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS
IN THE SMOKY HILL – SALINE RIVER BASIN
AND LOWER SOLOMON RIVER BASIN**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has prepared eight Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for streams in the Smoky-Hill Saline and lower Solomon River Basins that are impaired by not meeting state water quality standards. These TMDLs address impairment issues that KDHE has identified with the help of the Basin Advisory Committees and represents the third round of TMDLs for waters in the Smoky-Saline Basin since 2004.

The TMDLs presented for public review are:

Smoky Hill – Saline River Basin:

1. Smoky Hill River near Mentor – Total Suspended Solids
2. Smoky Hill River near Mentor – E. Coli Bacteria
3. Smoky Hill River at Junction City – Total Suspended Solids
4. Big Creek, Smoky Hill River near Russell, and Landon Creek near Russell – Total Phosphorus
5. Big Creek – Total Suspended Solids
6. Big Creek – E. Coli Bacteria
7. Big Creek – Nitrate

Lower Solomon River Basin:

1. Solomon River at Niles – Total Suspended Solids

These TMDLs are available for review at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment TMDL website: <http://www.kdheks.gov/tmdl/index.htm>. Additionally, copies of the TMDLs can be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Water, Watershed Planning Section (785-296-8791).

Two public hearings are scheduled to take testimony from interested parties. The hearings will be held Wednesday February 10, 2010 in Hays and on Thursday February 11, 2010 in Assaria. The hearing locations and times are as follows:

February 10, 2010

Location: Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau (Hays Welcome Center)
Address: 2700 Vine St.
Hays, KS
Time: 2:00pm

February 11, 2010

Location: City of Assaria City Hall

Address: 315 E. Main St.

Assaria, KS

Time: 10:30 am

The first portion of the hearing will be a briefing by the Watershed Planning Section, outlining each of the TMDLs. The public record for these TMDLs will be held open until February 24, 2010. After reviewing the testimony and public comments, KDHE will make any appropriate revisions to the TMDLs and will submit them to Region VII of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public hearing process and may request the proposed TMDLs in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the hearing process should be made at least five working days in advance of the hearing by contacting KDHE.

In the event of inclement weather this hearing will not be rescheduled, in which case comments will need to be submitted in writing. Requests, questions, or written comments should be directed to Tom Stiles at the Watershed Planning Section of KDHE at: Watershed Planning Section / Tom Stiles, 1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 420, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1367; by email at tstiles@kdheks.gov; by telephone: 785-296-6170 or by FAX: 785-291-3266.