

Definition of select terms in the antidegradation database

No: Means that the answer to the question posed is affirmatively negative. For example, if the "antidegradation applies to mixing zones" field contains "No," these means text in rule or guidance – or conversations with agency staff – make it clear that antidegradation is not applied in mixing zones.

n/a: Means that the question is simply not applicable in this state. It does not mean "No" or "not specified." For example, if the answer to "triggers specified" is "no," the answer to "describe triggers" would be "n/a" because the "describe triggers" question is just not applicable if triggers don't exist.

Not specified: In a few cases, rule text, guidance text, and even discussions with agency staff made it clear that some issues simply weren't specifically addressed in the state's policy approach. For example, for many states the answer to the question of "antidegradation applies to mixing zones" is "not specified." This appears to be an area many states have yet to wrestle with.

No data: This answer should be rare in the database. This is a research placeholder for staff as we round out the data provided. For any field where we have not yet found or confirmed the data, "no data" fills the spot until we can update the field.

Explanation of fields in antidegradation database

Description	Type of data	Description
Antidegradation contact	Name	Primary contact for antidegradation issues
Antidegradation contact phone	Phone	Phone
Antidegradation contact email	Email	Email
Water quality standards website	Web address	Website address for 1.) water quality standards rule, 2.) general water quality standards program information or 3.) both 1 and 2.
Water quality standards citation	Short citation	Regulatory citation for the full water quality standards rule.
Antidegradation regulation website	Web address	Website address for antidegradation regulation. In many states this is simply a link to the water quality standards regulation, because the antidegradation regulations are not broken out separately on the web (e.g. one large pdf, etc.).
Antidegradation regulation citation	Short citation	Regulatory citation(s) for the specific antidegradation rules.
Antidegradation guidance citation	Title, etc.	Citation for any antidegradation guidance or policy that is not regulatory in nature (not a regulation or statute).
Antidegradation guidance web address	Web address	Website address for any antidegradation guidance or policy that is not regulatory in

		nature (not a regulation or statute).
Antidegradation implementation policy	Yes/no + citation if applicable.	Answers (yes/no) if any sort of antidegradation policy exists – whether in rule or guidance – and provides a citation.
Antidegradation implementation policy website	Web address	Website address for any antidegradation implementation policy – whether in rule or guidance.
Full antidegradation policy	Narrative	Where possible, contains the full text of the state's antidegradation policy. Where text is too long, contains a link to policy.
Full antidegradation implementation policy	Narrative	Where possible, contains the full text of the state's antidegradation implementation policy. Where text is too long, contains a link to policy.
Waterbody or pollutant approach	Waterbody/pollutant	Indicates if the state applies antidegradation (and particularly Tier 2 reviews) on a waterbody or pollutant-by-pollutant basis.
Describe waterbody or pollutant approach	Narrative	Indicates how the state's waterbody or pollutant-by-pollutant approach is described in rule or guidance.
Antidegradation applies to mixing zones	Yes/no	Indicates if the state applies antidegradation within the boundaries of a mixing zone (answer = yes) or at the edge of the mixing zone (answer = no).
Describe applicability to mixing zones	Narrative	Indicates how the state's application to mixing zones is described in rule or guidance.
Triggers for antidegradation specified	Yes/no	Indicates if the state lists which activities/permits/etc. trigger the antidegradation review process.
Describe triggers for antidegradation	Narrative	Provides the list of triggers (activities/permits/etc.) for antidegradation review process.
Public involvement required	Yes/no	Indicates if the state explicitly requires public involvement in the antidegradation review process.
Describe public involvement	Narrative	Describes how the state solicits (and in some cases incorporates) public involvement in the antidegradation review process.
Antidegradation analysis available to public	Yes/no + narrative	Indicates if the state requires the actual antidegradation analysis to be provided to the public and, if so, provides any description of how this is required (e.g. as part of a NPDES permit public and notice, etc).
Deminimus or significance test	Yes/No	Indicates if the state exempts any activities from Tier 2 review based on the argument that certain activities are de minimus, or too small to trigger review.
Describe de minimus or	Narrative	Describes the "test" applied to decide if a

significance test		proposed discharge is too small – or de minimus/insignificant – to trigger Tier 2 review.
Threshold for de minimus	Narrative	Indicates the ceiling amount for an individual discharge (usually an increase in in-stream concentration, discharge concentration or load) that qualifies as de minimus, or small enough to exempt from review.
Cumulative cap for de minimus	Yes/No	Indicates if the state has established a cumulative limit for allowing de minimus exemptions to Tier 2 review (e.g. the state exempts individual discharges that increase the in-stream concentration by 10 percent or less, but "caps" the use of this exemption at 20 percent of the stream's total assimilative capacity).
Describe cumulative cap for de minimus	Narrative	Indicates the ceiling amount for cumulative use of the de minimus exemption to antidegradation Tier 2 review in a waterbody (usually an increase in in-stream concentration or load).
Exemptions to antidegradation specified	Yes/No	Indicates if the state has explicit exemptions to Tier 2 antidegradation review – including de minimus exemptions.
Describe exemptions to antidegradation	Narrative	Describes exemptions to Tier 2 antidegradation review.
Antidegradation only applied to new and expanding discharges	Yes/No	Indicates if a specific exemption – grandfathering – is explicitly in place in the state.
Describe grandfathering	Narrative	Describes grandfathering exemption applied in the state.
Tier 1 waters explicitly listed	Yes/No	Indicates if the state explicitly lists Tier 1 waters where only minimal protections apply (i.e. a waterbody approach to Tier 1).
Tier 2 socioeconomic test exists	Yes/No	Indicates if the state's Tier 2 review process explicitly requires that the discharge be reviewed for social and economic benefits to the community as part of approval/disapproval process.
Socioeconomic test includes detail beyond federal rule language	Yes/No	Indicates if the state has any language beyond the general federal language (which states: "...allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located."). We applied the affirmative generously in this field to allow a "yes" search to show the broadest possible range of approaches.

Describe socioeconomic test	Narrative	Describes how the state has defined the socioeconomic test.
Define “important development”	Narrative	Indicates if the state has defined the phrase "important development" as used in the general federal language.
Define “in the area”	Narrative	Indicates if the state has defined the phrase "in the area" (where the waters are located) as used in the general federal language.
Tier 2 alternatives test exists	Yes/No	Indicates if the state's Tier 2 review process explicitly requires a review of alternatives to the proposed discharge, as required by federal regulations. We applied the affirmative generously in this field so "yes" may indicate something as simply as the use of the word "necessary" as used in the federal rule language ("That allowing lower water quality is <u>necessary</u> to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located.")
Alternatives test includes detail beyond federal rule language	Yes/No	Indicates if the state has any language beyond the general federal language (which states: "...allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located."). We applied the affirmative generously in this field to allow a "yes" search to show the broadest possible range of approaches – so generally if the state went beyond incorporation of the "necessary" language here, we answered "yes" in this field.
Describe alternatives test	Narrative	Describes how the state has defined the alternatives test in Tier 2 review.
Tier 2.5 exists	Yes/No	Many states have established a level of protection that falls short of true Tier 3 protection, but provides special protections above and beyond Tier 2 review. These are called many things, but our shorthand for all the different state designations is "Tier 2.5."
Describe Tier 2.5	Narrative	Describes the type of protection applied to the Tier 2.5 waters (i.e. any special designation that provides less protection than Tier 3, but more than a Tier 2 review).
ONRW designation process exists	Yes/No	Indicates if the state has an explicit process for nominating or otherwise identifying Outstanding National Resource Waters.
Describe ONRW designation process	Narrative	Describes any process for nominating or otherwise identifying Outstanding National

		Resource Waters.
ONRW protection procedures exist	Yes/No	Indicates if the state has identified specific protections (e.g. no discharges, etc.) for Outstanding National Resource Waters.
Describe ONRW protection procedures	Narrative	Describes any specific protections for Outstanding National Resource Waters.
ONRW list	List	If any Outstanding National Resource Waters have been designated in the state, the list of waters protected is provided.
Regulations/guidance currently under review/change	Narrative	Indicates if the data presented here is currently under review or change. Please note that this field is kept as up to date as possible, but new reviews/rule developments may come up at any time.
Finalized	Yes/no	Indicates if River Network staff have reviewed the state's data and given the state agency the opportunity to review the original data compilation.
Date finalized	Date	Date the state was originally finalized.
Date last updated	Date	Date that any data in any field in this state was last modified.