



Watershed - Frequently Asked Questions

Who should I call to report a pollution incident (spill, overflow or fish kill)?

To report chemical spills, oil spills or fish kills, you can call DHEC's emergency response line toll-free at 1-888-481-0125 24 hours a day. For these and other water quality problems, you can also call your local [DHEC office](#).

Where can I find water quality monitoring data for my watershed?

All of DHEC's water quality data is housed in EPA's STORET database. STORET can be accessed through the EPA [website](#). If you need assistance downloading data from STORET, [text instructions](#) or [graphic and text instructions](#) are available. Please be aware that due to the time it takes for data to be quality assured and uploaded into the database, there may be up to a 2-year lag time in available STORET data. If you have questions about your local surface water quality, your [Watershed Manager](#) may be able to help you.

Can DHEC use volunteer water quality monitoring data?

Any organization interested in submitting water quality data for regulatory purposes (such as the 303(d) list) should use laboratories certified by the DHEC Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification for the test methods of record. We strongly encourage you to contact the DHEC Office of Quality Assurance and submit a [Quality Assurance Project Plan](#) (QAPP) for approval prior to initiating sampling. For the Department to use any non-DHEC data in development of the 303(d) list, submittal of non-DHEC data should be accompanied with an approved QAPP. For additional information, please contact [Mihir Mehta](#).

Who should I contact if I have a drinking water problem?

DHEC regulates all [public water systems](#) (PWS) and is responsible for insuring that these public water systems are in compliance with all state and federal regulations. Local municipal, county and other government entities, along with **private** water suppliers are directly responsible for the quality of the water that flows to your faucet. However, **If you own a residential well, you are responsible for the quality of your water.**

For information on your drinking water, call your water supplier or your local [DHEC regional office](#). If you are on a public water system, you can find contact information on your water bill. If you are concerned about the water quality of your private well, you may contact DHEC's [Residential Well Program](#) for more information.

Where can I find information about health advisories?

DHEC issues advisories for freshwaters (swimming advisories), saltwaters (beach advisories) and fish consumption. More information about each of these advisory programs can be found [here](#).

Who should I contact about water classifications and standards?

If you have specific questions about South Carolina's [water quality standards](#) (R.61-68) or the [Triennial Review process](#), you can contact [Gina Kirkland](#), Water Quality Standards Coordinator at (803) 898-4330.

How can I get involved in my watershed?

Your [Watershed Manager](#) can help you connect with watershed organizations in your area or help you start your own. For tips on how to keep your local waterways clean, you can also visit DHEC's [runoff pollution webpage](#).