

Title 327 Water Pollution Control Division

Notice of Public Comment Period for the 2024 Assessment of Big Raccoon-Wabash River Watershed Water Quality Data for the Development of a Total Maximum Daily Load Report Under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water and Pursuant to IC 13-18-2-3

Purpose of Notice

Pursuant to IC-13-17-2-3, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is soliciting public comment on the assessment of water quality data for the development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) report. These data were collected by IDEM staff from November of 2022 to October of 2023, following the IDEM quality assured [work plan](#) and IDEM standard operating procedures. They were assessed using IDEM's 2022 Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology ([CALM](#)).

Background

Past survey of Big Raccoon-Wabash River watershed date as far back as 1985, when IDEM performed fish tissue monitoring. Fixed station monitoring has been conducted in the watershed since 1998 and more extensive surveys of the watershed were conducted in 2000, 2005, 2010, 2011, and 2017 by both the probabilistic and targeted monitoring programs.

In 2022, the Big Raccoon-Wabash River watershed was selected for an intensive watershed characterization monitoring project to identify the sources and extent of impairments based on those waters that were previously listed. Eighteen sites were assessed for general chemistry, pathogens, nutrients, habitat, and fish and macroinvertebrate communities.

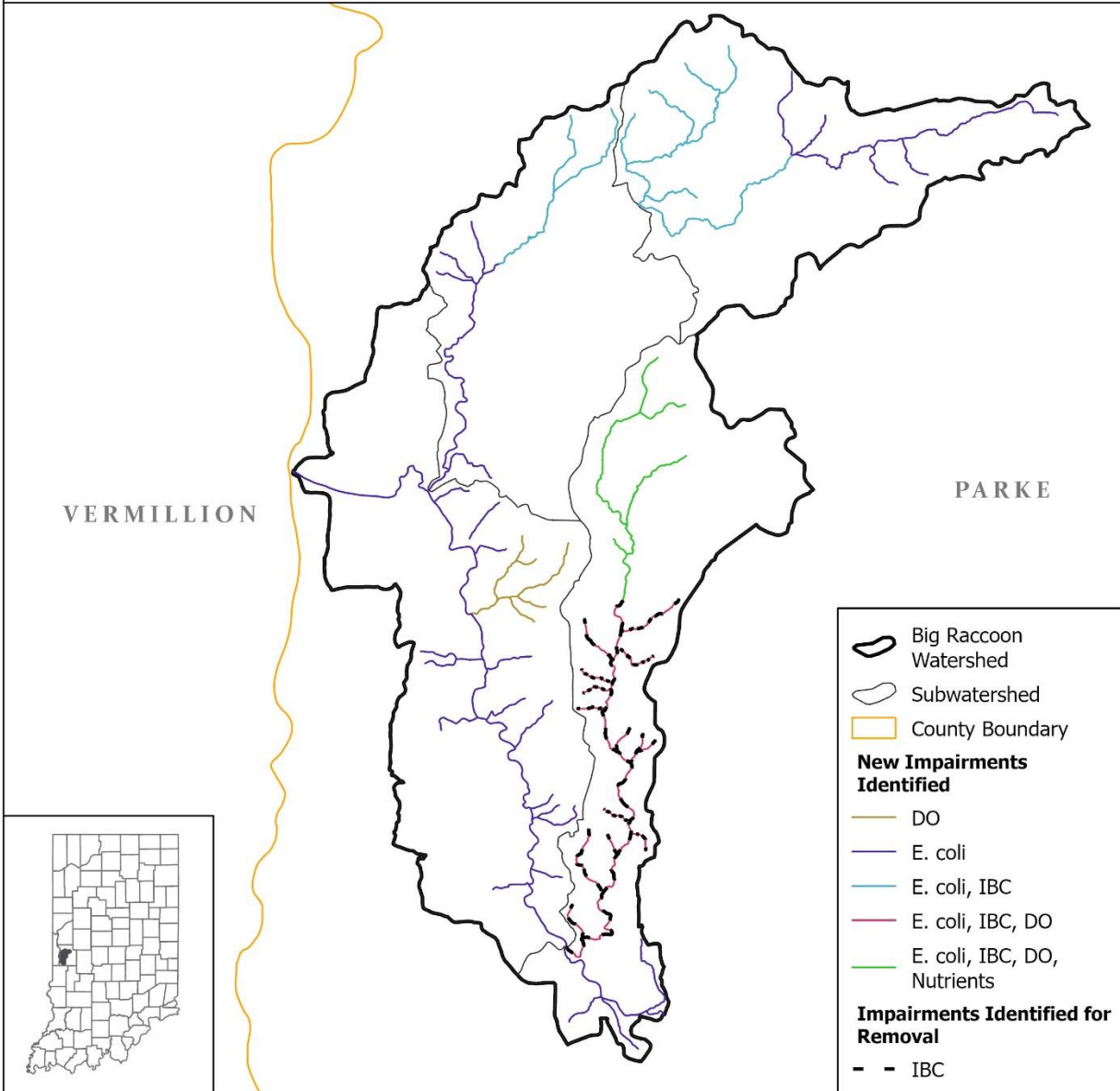
Findings

Based on the watershed characterization study assessments in 2024, there are 15 stream segments, tracked using assessment unit IDs (AUIDs), where additional impairments were identified. The additional impairments across all stream segments samples within the Big Raccoon-Wabash River watershed total 21, including 12 *E. coli*, 5 IBC, 3 DO, and 1 nutrient.

Also, as a result of the assessments, 1 historical IBC impairment was identified as no longer applicable.

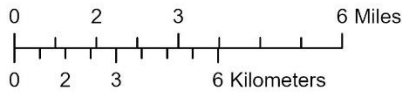
Big Raccoon-Wabash River Watershed Impairments		
Current AUID	Additional Impairments Identified in 2022-2023 Data Assessment	Impairments Identified for Removal in 2022-2023 Data Assessment Due to Meeting WQS
INB08F1_02	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB08F1_03	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC	
INB08F1_T1006	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC	
INB08F2_01		
INB08F2_02	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB08F2_03	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB08F2_T1001	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC	
INB08F2_T1004		
INB08F3_01	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB08F3_T1002	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC, DO	
INB08F3_T1003	<i>E. coli</i> , IBC, DO, Nutrients	
INB08F3_T1004		IBC
INB08F4_03	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB08F4_04	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB08F4_05	<i>E. coli</i>	
INB08F4_T1008	DO	

Big Raccoon Watershed Draft 303(d) 2022-2023 Listed Impairments



This map is intended to serve as an aid in graphic representation only. This information is not warranted for accuracy or other purposes.

Mapped By: Alyssa Henthorn, Office of Water Quality
Date: 3/26/2024
Sources:
Data: Obtained from the State of Indiana Geographic Enterprise Portal
Map Projection: UTM Zone 16 N
Map Datum: NAD83



Request for Public Comments

At this time, IDEM solicits water quality-related information to support or refute the assessments described above.

Comments may be submitted in one of the following ways:

1. My mail or common carrier to the following address:
 - a. 2024 Big Raccoon-Wabash River Water Quality Data
Dorothy A. Henthorn, Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
2525 N. Shadeland Avenue, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46219
2. By electronic mail to dhenthorn@idem.in.gov. To confirm timely delivery of your comments, please request a document receipt when you send the electronic mail. PLEASE NOTE: Electronic mail comments will NOT be considered part of the official written comment period unless they are sent to the address indicated in the notice.
3. Hand delivered to the receptionist on duty at the reception desk, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 2525 North Shadeland Avenue, Suite 100, Indianapolis, Indiana 46219.

Regardless of the delivery method used, to properly identify each comment with the action it is intended to address, each comment document must clearly specify that you are commenting on the “2024 Assessment of Big Raccoon-Wabash River Water Quality Data.”

Comment Period Deadline

All comments must be postmarked, or time stamped no later than May 16, 2024. Hand-delivered comments must be delivered to the appropriate office by 5 pm on the above-listed deadline date.

Additional information regarding this notice may be obtained from Dorothy A. Henthorn in the Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch, Office of Water Quality, (317) 308-3235 or (800) 451-6027 (in Indiana).

Disposition

After the public comment period, the determination of impairments for TMDL development will be presented to the commissioner for final approval.