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## 58.01.11 - GROUND WATER QUALITY RULE

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**IDAPA 58  
TITLE 01  
Chapter 11**

**58.01.11 - GROUND WATER QUALITY RULE**

**000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.**

The Idaho Legislature has given the Board of Environmental Quality authority to promulgate the Ground Water Quality Rule pursuant to Sections 39-105, 39-107, 39-120, and 39-126, Idaho Code. The authority to formulate and adopt rules as are necessary and feasible to protect the environment and health of the citizens of the state is vested in the Director and Board pursuant to Sections 39-105 and 39-107, Idaho Code. Under Section 39-120, Idaho Code, the Board is authorized to adopt, by rule, ambient ground water quality standards. Under Section 39-126, Idaho Code, all state agencies shall incorporate the Ground Water Quality Plan, adopted by the legislature, in the administration of their programs and are granted authority to promulgate rules to protect ground water quality as necessary to administer such programs. (3-20-97)

**001. TITLE AND SCOPE.**

**01. Title.** This rule shall be cited as IDAPA 58.01.11, Rules of the Department of Environmental Quality, IDAPA 58.01.11, "Ground Water Quality Rule". (3-20-97)

**02. Scope.** Under Section 39-120, Idaho Code, the Department of Environmental Quality is designated as the primary agency to coordinate and administer ground water quality protection programs for the state. This rule establishes minimum requirements for protection of ground water quality through standards and an aquifer categorization process. The requirements of this rule shall serve as a basis for the administration of programs which address ground water quality. This rule does not in and of itself create a permit program. (3-20-97)

**002. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.**

Persons may be entitled to appeal agency actions authorized under this chapter pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.23, "Rules of Administrative Procedure Before the Board of Environmental Quality". (3-15-02)

**003. WRITTEN INTERPRETATIONS.**

The Department of Environmental Quality may have written statements which pertain to the interpretation of the rules of this chapter. If available, such written statements can be inspected and copied, at cost, at the Department of Environmental Quality, 1410 North Hilton, Boise, ID 83706-1255. (3-20-97)

**004. CONFLICT WITH THE IDAHO WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS.**

The Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements, IDAPA 58.01.02, "Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements," contain provisions establishing ground water quality standards. To the extent a conflict exists between this rule and the ground water quality standards in IDAPA 58.01.02.299 of the Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements, this rule shall prevail. (3-20-97)

**005. (RESERVED).**

**006. POLICIES.**

It is the intent of the Department to implement, through this rule, the following policies from the Protection and Prevention Sections of the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan, adopted by the legislature, 1992 Session Law, Chapter 310, Page 922. These policies are: (3-20-97)

**01. Ground Water Quality Protection.** It is the policy of the state of Idaho to maintain and protect the existing high quality of the state's ground water. (3-20-97)

**02. Existing And Projected Future Beneficial Uses.** The policy of the state of Idaho is that existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water shall be maintained and protected, and degradation that would impair existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water shall not be allowed. (3-20-97)

**03. Categorization Of Ground Water.** The policy of the state of Idaho is to provide differential protection for the state's ground water resources. A ground water categorization system should be established for aquifers or portions of aquifers. The categorization system should be based on vulnerability of the ground water, existing and projected future beneficial uses of the ground water, existing quality of the ground water, and social and economic considerations. (3-20-97)

**04. Ground Water Quality Standards.** The policy of the state of Idaho is to establish ground water quality standards for biological, radiological, and chemical constituents. (3-20-97)

**05. Prevention Of Ground Water Contamination.** The policy of the state of Idaho is to prevent contamination of ground water from all regulated and nonregulated sources of contamination to the maximum extent practical. (7-1-98)

**06. Mining.** The policy of the state of Idaho is to protect ground water and allow for the extraction of minerals above and within ground water. (7-1-98)

**007. DEFINITIONS.**

**01. Agricultural Chemical.** Any pesticide, nutrient or fertilizer used for the benefit of agricultural production or pest management. (3-20-97)

**02. Aquifer.** A geological unit of permeable saturated material capable of yielding economically significant quantities of water to wells and springs. (3-20-97)

**03. Beneficial Uses.** Various uses of ground water in Idaho including, but not limited to, domestic water supplies, industrial water supplies, agricultural water supplies, aquacultural water supplies, and mining. A beneficial use is defined as actual current or projected future uses of ground water. (3-20-97)

**04. Best Available Method.** Any system, process, or method which is available to the public for commercial or private use to minimize the impact of point or nonpoint sources of contamination on ground water quality. (3-20-97)

**05. Best Management Practice.** A practice or combination of practices determined to be the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing contamination to ground water and interconnected surface water from nonpoint and point sources to achieve water quality goals and protect the beneficial uses of the water. (3-20-97)

**06. Best Practical Method.** Any system, process, or method that is established and in routine use which could be used to minimize the impact of point or nonpoint sources of contamination on ground water quality. (3-20-97)

**07. Board.** The Idaho Board of Environmental Quality. (3-20-97)

**08. Cleanup.** The removal, treatment or isolation of a contaminant from ground water through the directed efforts of humans or the removal or treatment of a contaminant in ground water through management practice or the construction of barriers, trenches and other similar facilities for prevention of contamination, as well as the use of natural processes such as ground water recharge, natural decay and chemical or biological decomposition. (3-20-97)

**09. Constituent.** Any chemical, ion, radionuclide, synthetic organic compound, microorganism, waste or other substance occurring in ground water. (3-20-97)

**10. Contaminant.** Any chemical, ion, radionuclide, synthetic organic compound, microorganism, waste or other substance which does not occur naturally in ground water or which naturally occurs at a lower concentration. (3-20-97)

**11. Contamination.** The direct or indirect introduction into ground water of any contaminant caused in

whole or in part by human activities. (3-20-97)

**12. Crop Root Zone.** The zone that extends from the surface of the soil to the depth of the deepest crop root and is specific to a species of plant, group of plants, or crop. (3-20-97)

**13. Degradation.** The lowering of ground water quality as measured in a statistically significant and reproducible manner. (3-20-97)

**14. Department.** The Department of Environmental Quality. (3-20-97)

**15. Ground Water.** Any water of the state which occurs beneath the surface of the earth in a saturated geological formation of rock or soil. (3-20-97)

**16. Ground Water Quality Standard.** Values, either numeric or narrative, assigned to any constituent for the purpose of establishing minimum levels of protection. (3-20-97)

**17. Highly Vulnerable Ground Water.** Ground water characterized by a relatively high potential for contaminants to enter and/or be transported within the flow system. Determinations of ground water vulnerability will include consideration of land use practices and aquifer characteristics. (3-20-97)

**18. Irreplaceable Source.** A ground water source serving a beneficial use(s) where the reliable delivery of comparable quality and quantity of water from an alternative source in the region would be economically infeasible or precluded by institutional constraints. (3-20-97)

**19. Natural Background Level.** The level of any constituent in the ground water within a specified area as determined by representative measurements of the ground water quality unaffected by human activities. (3-20-97)

**20. Person.** Any individual, association, partnership, firm, joint stock company, joint venture, trust, estate, political subdivision, public or private corporation, state or federal governmental department, agency or instrumentality, or any legal entity which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties. (3-20-97)

**21. Practical Quantitation Level.** The lowest concentration of a constituent that can be reliably quantified among laboratories within specified limits of precision and accuracy during routine laboratory operating conditions. Specified limits of precision and accuracy are the criteria listed in the calibration specifications or quality control specifications of an analytical method. (3-20-97)

**22. Projected Future Beneficial Uses.** Various uses of ground water, such as drinking water, aquaculture, industrial, mining or agriculture, that are practical and achievable in the future based on hydrogeologic conditions, water quality, future land use activities and social/economic considerations. (3-20-97)

**23. Recharge Area.** An area in which water infiltrates into the soil or geological formation from, including but not limited to precipitation, irrigation practices and seepage from creeks, streams, and lakes, and percolates to one (1) or more aquifers. (3-20-97)

**24. Remediation.** Any action taken (1) to control the source of contamination, (2) to reduce the level of contamination, (3) to mitigate the effects of contaminants, and/or (4) to minimize contaminant movement. Remediation includes providing alternate drinking water sources when needed. (3-20-97)

**25. Site Background Level.** The ground water quality at the hydraulically upgradient site boundary. (3-20-97)

**008. -- 010. (RESERVED).**

**011. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.**

Codes, standards and regulations may be incorporated by reference in this rule pursuant to Section 67-5229, Idaho Code. Such incorporation by reference shall constitute full adoption by reference, including any notes or appendices

therein, unless expressly provided otherwise in this rule. Codes, standards or regulations adopted by reference throughout this rule are available in the following locations: (3-20-97)

**01. Department of Environmental Quality.** Department of Environmental Quality, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706-1255. (3-20-97)

**02. Law Library.** State Law Library, 451 W. State Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0051. (3-20-97)

**03. U.S. Government Printing Office.** U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402, or U.S. Government Bookstore, Room 194 Federal Bldg., 915 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98174. (3-20-97)

**012. -- 149. (RESERVED).**

**150. IMPLEMENTATION.**

This rule establishes minimum requirements to maintain and protect ground water quality. This rule applies to all activities with the potential to degrade ground water quality. (3-20-97)

**01. Ground Water Quality Standards.** The numerical and narrative standards in Sections 200 and 301 identify minimum levels of protection for ground water quality and shall be used as a basis for: (3-20-97)

**a.** Evaluating or comparing ground water quality when developing or modifying best available methods, best management practices, or best practical methods; (3-20-97)

**b.** Identifying permit conditions; (3-20-97)

**c.** Establishing cleanup levels; and (3-20-97)

**d.** Determining appropriate actions when ground water quality standards are exceeded. (3-20-97)

**02. Aquifer Categorization.** Aquifers of the state shall be categorized based on vulnerability of the ground water, existing and projected future beneficial uses of the ground water, existing water quality, and social and economic considerations. There shall be three aquifer categories, Sensitive Resource, General Resource, and Other Resource, to provide different levels of protection. The level of protection required for each category and application of standards to these categories are shown in Table I.

| <b>Table I. Level of Protection and Application of Standards to Aquifer Categories</b> |                                                                                                                                  |                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Category</b>                                                                        | <b>Level of Protection</b>                                                                                                       | <b>Application of Standards</b>                         |
| Sensitive Resource                                                                     | Apply best management practices and best available methods. This category provides the highest level of ground water protection. | May apply stricter standards than in Section 200.       |
| General Resource                                                                       | Apply best management practices and best practical methods.                                                                      | Apply numerical and narrative standards in Section 200. |
| Other Resource                                                                         | Apply best management practices and best practical methods.                                                                      | May apply less strict standards than in Section 200.    |

(7-1-98)

**a.** All aquifers where there are activities with the potential to degrade ground water quality are categorized in Section 300. Those aquifers where no activities with the potential to degrade ground water quality are occurring will remain uncategorized until such activities are commenced. If no action is taken to categorize an aquifer when an activity(ies) with the potential to degrade ground water quality is initiated, the aquifer will automatically be

categorized as General Resource. (3-20-97)

**b.** Categorization should be considered when an activity with the potential to degrade ground water quality is proposed over an aquifer or portion of an aquifer which presently has no such activities and, based on the criteria in Section 350, the aquifer may be most appropriately categorized as Sensitive Resource or Other Resource. (3-20-97)

**c.** Recategorization should be considered when information on vulnerability of the ground water, existing and projected future beneficial uses of the ground water, existing quality of the ground water, and social and economic considerations, in conjunction with one or more of the criteria in Section 350, demonstrates that the aquifer or portion of an aquifer may be more appropriate in another category. (3-20-97)

**03. Ground Water-Surface Water Interconnection.** The beneficial uses of interconnected surface water shall be recognized when evaluating ground water quality protection. The implementation of water quality programs shall ensure that the quality of ground water that discharges to surface water does not impair the identified beneficial uses of the surface water and that surface water infiltration does not impair beneficial uses of ground water. (3-20-97)

**04. Interagency Coordination.** The Department will coordinate with other federal, state, and local agencies to pursue interagency agreements when necessary to ensure implementation of this rule for activities which have the potential to degrade ground water quality. (3-20-97)

**151. -- 199. (RESERVED).**

**200. GROUND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.**

The following numerical and narrative standards apply to all ground water of the state and shall not be exceeded unless otherwise allowed in this rule. (3-20-97)

**01. Numerical Ground Water Quality Standards.** (3-20-97)

**a.** The Primary Constituent Standards are based on protection of human health and are identified in Table II.

| Table II - Primary Constituent Standards |             |                                            |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Chemical Abstract Service Number         | Constituent | Standard (mg/l unless otherwise specified) |
| 7440-36-0                                | Antimony    | 0.006                                      |
| 7440-38-2                                | Arsenic     | 0.05                                       |
| 1332-21-4                                | Asbestos    | 7 million fibers/l longer than 10 um       |
| 7440-39-3                                | Barium      | 2                                          |
| 7440-41-7                                | Beryllium   | 0.004                                      |
| 7440-43-9                                | Cadmium     | 0.005                                      |
| 7440-47-3                                | Chromium    | 0.1                                        |
| 7440-50-8                                | Copper      | 1.3                                        |
| 57-12-5                                  | Cyanide     | 0.2                                        |
| 16984-48-8                               | Fluoride    | 4                                          |

| <b>Table II - Primary Constituent Standards</b> |                                                    |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chemical Abstract Service Number</b>         | <b>Constituent</b>                                 | <b>Standard (mg/l unless otherwise specified)</b> |
| 7439-92-1                                       | Lead                                               | 0.015                                             |
| 7439-97-6                                       | Mercury                                            | 0.002                                             |
| *                                               | Nitrate (as N)                                     | 10                                                |
| *                                               | Nitrite (as N)                                     | 1                                                 |
| *                                               | Nitrate and Nitrite (both as N)                    | 10                                                |
| 7782-49-2                                       | Selenium                                           | 0.05                                              |
| 7440-28-0                                       | Thallium                                           | 0.002                                             |
| 15972-60-8                                      | Alachlor                                           | 0.002                                             |
| 1912-24-9                                       | Atrazine                                           | 0.003                                             |
| 71-43-2                                         | Benzene                                            | 0.005                                             |
| 50-32-8                                         | Benzo(a)pyrene (PAH)                               | 0.0002                                            |
| 75-27-4                                         | Bromodichloromethane (THM)                         | 0.1                                               |
| 75-25-2                                         | Bromoform (THM)                                    | 0.1                                               |
| 1563-66-2                                       | Carbofuran                                         | 0.04                                              |
| 56-23-5                                         | Carbon Tetrachloride                               | 0.005                                             |
| 57-74-9                                         | Chlordane                                          | 0.002                                             |
| 124-48-1                                        | Chlorodibromomethane (THM)                         | 0.1                                               |
| 67-66-3                                         | Chloroform(THM)                                    | 0.002                                             |
| 94-75-7                                         | 2,4-D                                              | 0.07                                              |
| 75-99-0                                         | Dalapon                                            | 0.2                                               |
| 103-23-1                                        | Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate                           | 0.4                                               |
| 96-12-8                                         | Dibromochloropropane                               | 0.0002                                            |
| 541-73-1                                        | Dichlorobenzene m-                                 | 0.6                                               |
| 95-50-1                                         | Dichlorobenzene o-                                 | 0.6                                               |
| 106-46-7                                        | 1,4(para)-Dichlorobenzene or<br>Dichlorobenzene p- | 0.075                                             |
| 107-06-2                                        | 1,2-Dichloroethane                                 | 0.005                                             |
| 75-35-4                                         | 1,1-Dichloroethylene                               | 0.007                                             |
| 156-59-2                                        | cis-1, 2-Dichloroethylene                          | 0.07                                              |
| 156-60-5                                        | trans-1, 2-Dichloroethylene                        | 0.1                                               |
| 75-09-2                                         | Dichloromethane                                    | 0.005                                             |
| 78-87-5                                         | 1,2-Dichloropropane                                | 0.005                                             |

| <b>Table II - Primary Constituent Standards</b> |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chemical Abstract Service Number</b>         | <b>Constituent</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Standard (mg/l unless otherwise specified)</b> |
| 117-81-7                                        | Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate                                                                                                                                           | 0.006                                             |
| 88-85-7                                         | Dinoseb                                                                                                                                                             | 0.007                                             |
| 85-00-7                                         | Diquat                                                                                                                                                              | 0.02                                              |
| 145-73-3                                        | Endothall                                                                                                                                                           | 0.1                                               |
| 72-20-8                                         | Endrin                                                                                                                                                              | 0.002                                             |
| 100-41-4                                        | Ethylbenzene                                                                                                                                                        | 0.7                                               |
| 106-93-4                                        | Ethylene dibromide                                                                                                                                                  | 0.00005                                           |
| 1071-83-6                                       | Glyphosate                                                                                                                                                          | 0.7                                               |
| 76-44-8                                         | Heptachlor                                                                                                                                                          | 0.0004                                            |
| 1024-57-3                                       | Heptachlor epoxide                                                                                                                                                  | 0.0002                                            |
| 118-74-1                                        | Hexachlorobenzene                                                                                                                                                   | 0.001                                             |
| 77-47-4                                         | Hexachlorocyclopentadiene                                                                                                                                           | 0.05                                              |
| 58-89-9                                         | Lindane                                                                                                                                                             | 0.0002                                            |
| 72-43-5                                         | Methoxychlor                                                                                                                                                        | 0.04                                              |
| 108-90-7                                        | Monochlorobenzene                                                                                                                                                   | 0.1                                               |
| 23135-22-0                                      | Oxamyl (Vydate)                                                                                                                                                     | 0.2                                               |
| 87-86-5                                         | Pentachlorophenol                                                                                                                                                   | 0.001                                             |
| 1918-02-1                                       | Picloram                                                                                                                                                            | 0.5                                               |
| 1336-36-3                                       | Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)                                                                                                                                    | 0.0005                                            |
| 122-34-9                                        | Simazine                                                                                                                                                            | 0.004                                             |
| 100-42-5                                        | Styrene                                                                                                                                                             | 0.1                                               |
| 1746-01-6                                       | 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)                                                                                                                                               | 3.0 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>                            |
| 127-18-4                                        | Tetrachloroethylene                                                                                                                                                 | 0.005                                             |
| 108-88-3                                        | Toluene                                                                                                                                                             | 1                                                 |
| *                                               | Total Trihalomethanes [the sum of the concentrations of bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, tribromomethane (bromoform), and trichloromethane (chloroform)] | 0.1                                               |
| 8001-35-2                                       | Toxaphene                                                                                                                                                           | 0.003                                             |
| 93-72-1                                         | 2,4,5-TP (Silvex)                                                                                                                                                   | 0.05                                              |
| 120-82-1                                        | 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene                                                                                                                                              | 0.07                                              |
| 71-55-6                                         | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane                                                                                                                                               | 0.2                                               |
| 79-00-5                                         | 1,1,2-Trichloroethane                                                                                                                                               | 0.005                                             |



| <b>Table II - Primary Constituent Standards</b> |                                                                                        |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chemical Abstract Service Number</b>         | <b>Constituent</b>                                                                     | <b>Standard (mg/l unless otherwise specified)</b> |
| 79-01-6                                         | Trichloroethylene                                                                      | 0.005                                             |
| 75-01-4                                         | Vinyl Chloride                                                                         | 0.002                                             |
| 1330-20-7                                       | Xylenes (total)                                                                        | 10                                                |
| *                                               | Gross alpha particle activity (including radium -226, but excluding radon and uranium) | 15 pCi/l                                          |
| *                                               | Combined beta/photon emitters                                                          | 4 millirems/year effective dose equivalent        |
| *                                               | Combined Radium - 226 and radium 228                                                   | 5 pCi/l                                           |
| *                                               | Strontium 90                                                                           | 8 pCi/l                                           |
| *                                               | Tritium                                                                                | 20,000 pCi/l                                      |
| *                                               | Total Coliform                                                                         | 1 colony forming unit/100 ml                      |

\* No Chemical Abstract Service Number exists for this constituent. (3-20-97)

**b.** The Secondary Constituent Standards are generally based on aesthetic qualities and are identified in Table III.

| <b>Table III - Secondary Constituent Standards</b> |                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Constituent</b>                                 | <b>Standard (mg/l unless otherwise specified)</b> |
| Aluminum                                           | 0.2                                               |
| Chloride                                           | 250                                               |
| Color                                              | 15 Color Units                                    |
| Foaming Agents                                     | 0.5                                               |
| Iron                                               | 0.3                                               |
| Manganese                                          | 0.05                                              |
| Odor                                               | 3.0 Threshold Odor Number                         |
| pH                                                 | 6.5 to 8.5 (no units apply)                       |
| Silver                                             | 0.1                                               |
| Sulfate                                            | 250                                               |
| Total Dissolved Solids                             | 500                                               |
| Zinc                                               | 5                                                 |

(3-20-97)

c. The numerical standards for additional radioactive materials are: (3-20-97)

i. Radioactive materials or radioactivity in ground water shall not exceed the values listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Chapter 1, Part 20, Appendix B, Table 2, Effluent Concentrations, Column 2, revised as of July 1, 1995. If a radioactive material or radioactivity also has a standard listed in Subsection 200.01.a., Table II, the more stringent standard shall apply. (3-20-97)

ii. Radioactive materials or radioactivity shall not exceed concentrations required to meet the standards set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Chapter 1, Part 20, revised as of July 1, 1995, for maximum exposure of critical human organs in the case of foodstuffs harvested from these waters for human consumption. (3-20-97)

d. Sample preservation and analytical procedures to determine compliance with the standards identified in Subsection 200.01 shall be in accordance with the following: (3-20-97)

i. Environmental Protection Agency, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Parts 141 and 143, revised as of July 1995; or (3-20-97)

ii. Another method approved by the Department. (3-20-97)

**02. Narrative Ground Water Quality Standards.** Contaminant concentrations, alone or in combination with other contaminants or properties, shall not cause the ground water to be hazardous, deleterious, carcinogenic, mutagenic, teratogenic, or toxic. Determinations of specific numerical levels when applying this standard shall be based on: (3-20-97)

a. Best scientific information currently available on adverse effects of the contaminant(s); (3-20-97)

b. Protection of a beneficial use; or (3-20-97)

c. Practical quantitation levels for the contaminant(s), if they exceed the levels identified in Subsection 200.02.a. or 200.02.b. (3-20-97)

**03. Natural Background Level.** If the natural background level of a constituent exceeds the standard in this section, the natural background level shall be used as the standard. (3-20-97)

**201. -- 299. (RESERVED).**

**300. CATEGORIZED AQUIFERS OF THE STATE.**

Aquifers or portions of aquifers in the state are categorized as follows: (3-20-97)

**01. Sensitive Resource.** (3-20-97)

a. Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. (3-20-97)

i. In addition to the ground water quality standards in Section 200, the following narrative standard applies: the aquifer shall not be degraded, as it relates to beneficial uses, as a result of point source or nonpoint source activity unless it is demonstrated by the person proposing the activity that such change is justifiable as a result of necessary economic or social development. (3-20-97)

**02. General Resource.** All aquifers or portions of aquifers where there are activities with the potential to degrade ground water quality of the aquifer, unless otherwise listed in Subsection 300.01 or 300.03. Once an activity with the potential to degrade the ground water quality of an uncategorized aquifer or portion of an aquifer is initiated, the uncategorized aquifer shall automatically become General Resource unless petitioned into the Sensitive Resource or Other Resource category. (3-20-97)

**03. Other Resource.** (3-20-97)

**301. MANAGEMENT OF ACTIVITIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO DEGRADE AQUIFERS.**

**01. Sensitive Resource Category Aquifers.** (3-20-97)

**a.** Activities with the potential to degrade Sensitive Resource aquifers shall be managed in a manner which maintains or improves existing ground water quality through the use of best management practices and best available methods. (3-20-97)

**b.** Numerical and narrative standards identified in Section 200 shall apply to aquifers or portions of aquifers categorized as Sensitive Resource. In addition, stricter numerical and narrative standards, for specified constituents, may be adopted pursuant to Section 350 on a case by case basis and listed in Section 300. (3-20-97)

**02. General Resource Category Aquifers.** (3-20-97)

**a.** Activities with the potential to degrade General Resource aquifers shall be managed in a manner which maintains or improves existing ground water quality through the use of best management practices and best practical methods to the maximum extent practical. (3-20-97)

**b.** Numerical and narrative standards identified in Section 200 shall apply to aquifers or portions of aquifers categorized as General Resource. (3-20-97)

**03. Other Resource Category Aquifers.** (3-20-97)

**a.** Activities with the potential to degrade Other Resource aquifers shall be managed in a manner which maintains existing ground water quality, except for those identified constituents which may have a less stringent standard, through the use of best management practices and best practical methods to the maximum extent practical. (3-20-97)

**b.** Numerical and narrative standards identified in Section 200 shall apply to aquifers or portions of aquifers categorized as Other Resource. In addition, less strict numerical and narrative standards, for specified constituents, may be adopted pursuant to Section 350 on a case by case basis and listed in Section 300. (3-20-97)

**302. -- 349. (RESERVED).**

**350. PROCEDURES FOR CATEGORIZING OR RECATEGORIZING AN AQUIFER.**

The following process shall be used for categorizing or recategorizing an aquifer. (3-20-97)

**01. Criteria For Aquifer Categories.** The following criteria shall be considered when a petition to categorize or recategorize aquifers or portions of aquifers is submitted to the Board: (3-20-97)

**a.** For Sensitive Resource aquifers: (3-20-97)

**i.** The ground water in an aquifer or portion of an aquifer is of a better quality than the ground water quality standards in Section 200 and maintenance of this quality is needed to protect an identified beneficial use(s); (3-20-97)

**ii.** The ground water in an aquifer or portion of an aquifer is considered highly vulnerable; (3-20-97)

**iii.** The ground water in an aquifer or portion of an aquifer represents an irreplaceable source for the identified beneficial use(s); (3-20-97)

**iv.** The ground water quality in an aquifer or portion of an aquifer has been degraded and there is a need for additional protection measures to maintain or improve the water quality or prevent impairment of a beneficial use; (3-20-97)

v. The ground water within an aquifer or portion of an aquifer is shown to be hydrologically interconnected with surface water and additional protection is needed to maintain the quality of either surface or ground water. Hydrologic interconnections can include either natural or induced ground water recharge or discharge areas; or (7-1-98)

vi. The ground water within an aquifer or portion of an aquifer demonstrates other criteria which justify the need for additional protection. (3-20-97)

**b.** For General Resource aquifers: (3-20-97)

i. An activity with the potential to degrade ground water quality is initiated over an aquifer or portion of an aquifer which presently has no such activities; (3-20-97)

ii. The ground water in an aquifer or portion of an aquifer is currently being used for drinking water or another beneficial use which requires similar protection; or (3-20-97)

iii. The ground water in an aquifer or portion of an aquifer has a projected future beneficial use of drinking water or another beneficial use which requires similar protection. (3-20-97)

**c.** For other resource aquifers: (3-20-97)

i. The ground water quality within an aquifer or portion of an aquifer does not meet one or more of the ground water quality standards in Section 200; and allowing the ground water quality to remain at this level does not impair existing or projected future beneficial uses within the aquifer or portion of an aquifer; (3-20-97)

ii. The projected ground water quality within an aquifer or portion of an aquifer will not meet one or more of the ground water quality standards in Section 200 as a result of activities over or within the aquifer or portion of an aquifer; and allowing the proposed degradation will not impair existing or projected future beneficial uses; (3-20-97)

iii. Human caused conditions or sources of contamination have resulted in ground water quality standards in Section 200 being exceeded, and the contamination cannot be remedied for economical or technical reasons, or remediation would cause more environmental damage to correct than to leave in place; or (3-20-97)

iv. The ground water within an aquifer or portion of an aquifer demonstrates other criteria which justify the need for categorization as an Other Resource. (3-20-97)

**02. Petition Process.** The Department or any other person may petition the Board to initiate rulemaking to categorize or recategorize an aquifer or portion of an aquifer pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.23, "Rules of Administrative Procedure Before the Board of Environmental Quality". In addition to the information required in a rulemaking Petition pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.23, the following information shall be submitted in writing by the Petitioner for the identified aquifer or portion of an aquifer: (3-15-02)

**a.** Current category, if applicable; (3-20-97)

**b.** Proposed category and an explanation of how one or more of the criteria in Subsection 350.01 are met; (3-20-97)

**c.** An explanation of why the categorization or recategorization is being proposed; (3-20-97)

**d.** Location, description and areal extent; (3-20-97)

**e.** General location and description of existing and projected future ground water beneficial uses; (3-20-97)

**f.** Documentation of the existing ground water quality; (3-20-97)

- g.** Documentation of aquifer characteristics, where available, including, but not limited to: (3-20-97)
- i.** Depth to ground water; (3-20-97)
- ii.** Thickness of the water bearing section; (3-20-97)
- iii.** Direction and rate of ground water flow; (3-20-97)
- iv.** Known recharge and discharge areas; and (3-20-97)
- v.** Geology of the area; (3-20-97)
- h.** Identification of any proposed standards, for specified constituents, which would be stricter or less strict than the ground water quality standards in Section 200, or any standards to be applied in addition to those in Section 200; and a rationale for the proposed standards. (3-20-97)

**03. Preliminary Department Review.** Prior to submission of a petition to the Board to categorize or recategorize an aquifer, any person may seek a preliminary review of the petition from the Department. The Department shall respond to the petitioner with comments within forty-five (45) days. (3-20-97)

**351. -- 399. (RESERVED).**

**400. GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION.**

**01. Releases Degrading Ground Water Quality.** No person shall cause or allow the release, spilling, leaking, emission, discharge, escape, leaching, or disposal of a contaminant into the environment in a manner that: (3-20-97)

- a.** Causes a ground water quality standard to be exceeded; (3-20-97)
- b.** Injures a beneficial use of ground water; or (3-20-97)
- c.** Is not in accordance with a permit, consent order or applicable best management practice, best available method or best practical method. (3-20-97)

**02. Prevention Measures.** (3-20-97)

**a.** When a numerical standard is not exceeded, but degradation of ground water quality is detected and deemed significant by the Department, the Department shall take one (1) or more of the following actions: (3-20-97)

- i.** Require a modification of regulated activities to prevent continued degradation; (3-20-97)
- ii.** Coordinate with the appropriate agencies and responsible persons to develop and implement prevention measures for activities not regulated by the Department; (3-20-97)
- iii.** Allow limited degradation of ground water quality for the constituents identified in Subsections 200.01.a. and 200.01.c., if it can be demonstrated that: (3-20-97)

  - (1) Best management practices, best available methods or best practical methods, as appropriate for the aquifer category, are being applied; and (3-20-97)
  - (2) The degradation is justifiable based on necessary and widespread social and economic considerations; or (3-20-97)
- iv.** Allow degradation of ground water quality up to the standards in Subsection 200.01.b., if it can be demonstrated that: (3-20-97)

- (1) Best management practices are being applied; and (3-20-97)
- (2) The degradation will not adversely impact a beneficial use. (3-20-97)
- b.** The following criteria shall be considered when determining the significance of degradation: (3-20-97)
  - i. Site specific hydrogeologic conditions; (3-20-97)
  - ii. Water quality, including seasonal variations; (3-20-97)
  - iii. Existing and projected future beneficial uses; (3-20-97)
  - iv. Related public health issues; and (3-20-97)
  - v. Whether the degradation involves a primary or secondary constituent in Section 200. (3-20-97)

**03. Contamination Exceeding A Ground Water Quality Standard.** The discovery of any contamination exceeding a ground water standard that poses a threat to existing or projected future beneficial uses of ground water shall require appropriate actions, as determined by the Department, to prevent further contamination. These actions may consist of investigation and evaluation, or enforcement actions if necessary to stop further contamination or clean up existing contamination, as required under the Environmental Protection and Health Act, Section 39-108, Idaho Code. (3-20-97)

**04. Agricultural Chemicals.** Agricultural chemicals found in intermittently saturated soils within the crop root zone will not be considered ground water contaminants as long as the chemicals remain within the crop root zone, and have been applied in a manner consistent with all appropriate regulatory requirements. (3-20-97)

**05. Site-Specific Ground Water Quality Levels.** The Department may allow site-specific ground water quality levels, for any aquifer category, that vary from a standard(s) in Section 200 or Section 300, based on consideration of effects to human health and the environment, for: (3-20-97)

- a.** Remediation conducted under the Department's oversight; (3-20-97)
- b.** Permits issued by the Department; (3-20-97)
- c.** Situations where the site background level varies from the ground water quality standard; or (3-20-97)
- d.** Other situations authorized by the Department in writing. (3-20-97)

**06. Mineral Extraction.** Naturally occurring constituents found in ground water within a specified area surrounding an active mineral extraction area, as determined by the Department, will not be considered contaminants as long as all applicable best management practices, best available methods or best practical methods, as approved by the Department, are applied. (7-1-98)

**401. -- 999. (RESERVED).**

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