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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Tuesday, April 24, 2018  
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**FOR THE REPORT:** <http://denr.sd.gov/documents/18irfinal.pdf>

## **DENR Receives Final Approval from EPA for Water Quality Report**

PIERRE – The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) received final approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the 2018 Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment. The report, required under the federal Clean Water Act, is due to EPA by April 1 of every even numbered year. DENR submitted the report to EPA for final approval on March 30, 2018. South Dakota was the only EPA Region 8 state to meet the federal deadline. The department public noticed the draft report and considered all comments received prior to submitting it to EPA for final approval.

“I am very proud of our dedicated staff in DENR who worked extra hard to meet the federal deadline for submitting this report,” said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. “Because the report is the driver for many of our efforts to improve water quality in South Dakota, we want to thank EPA Region 8 for its timely review and approval so we can continue moving forward.”

The report contains an assessment of the surface water quality of South Dakota’s waters and a list of impaired waters that require total maximum daily load development. The report also provides information about the state’s water quality monitoring and pollution control programs, a list of pollutants causing violations of water quality standards and a description of the process South Dakota uses to prioritize total maximum daily load development under the National 303(d) Program Vision.

The 2018 report lists 152 waterbodies or waterbody segments needing a total maximum daily load. Of those listed, 90 are stream and river segments and 62 are lakes that occasionally violate specific water quality standards. Most stream impairments are caused by total suspended solids and *E. coli* bacteria. Most lake impairments are caused by mercury in fish tissue and excessive algae. Many lakes and streams in South Dakota met other water quality standards evaluated during this 2018 assessment.

During the 2018 reporting cycle, states were required to use EPA’s “Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load Tracking and Implementation” (ATTAINS) system to develop integrated report information. ATTAINS is a web-based interface that provides states with a mechanism to record, manage and report all applicable water quality information. Reporting tools available in ATTAINS provide EPA and the public with a method to review results. The ATTAINS report

tool is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/assessment-and-total-maximum-daily-load-tracking-and-implementation-system-attains>.

A copy of the 2018 Integrated Report is available by visiting DENR's website at <http://denr.sd.gov/documents/18irfinal.pdf>, by phone at 1-800-438-3367 or by email to Paul Lorenzen at [Paul.Lorenzen@state.sd.us](mailto:Paul.Lorenzen@state.sd.us).