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NEWS RELEASE
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FMCC OPPOSES UNIQUE AND PUNITIVE STANDARDS FOR FLORIDA

Tallahassee, FL—By January 2010 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) must adopt numeric nutrient criteria standards for Florida lakes and streams or the U.S. EPA will do it for Florida.

To its credit, the FDEP has undertaken a systematic, scientific process for determining the maximum daily nutrient loads for Florida's water bodies by region. However, U.S. EPA says this is not good enough. Florida is now being singled out for the imposition of these federal water quality standards; no other state is under siege like Florida.

The Florida Minerals and Chemistry Council supports efforts to protect Florida's water quality, but the criteria the U.S. EPA intends to impose are economically unachievable, creating major hardships for every sector of Florida's economy and local governments. The consequences include increasing the cost of treating water in Florida by tens of billions of dollars, the imposition of unfunded mandates on local governments, driving businesses and jobs out of the state, and imposing costs for debatable environmental benefits.

FDEP should be allowed to continue its standard setting process and find reasonable ways to balance environmental quality of life with economic quality of life.

The Florida Minerals and Chemistry Council was formed in 1983 to create and maintain an environment within Florida that enables and promotes productive mineral processing and chemical manufacturing industries.

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