

EPA seeks more public comment on rule that affects Kentucky water protections

By **Liam Niemeyer**
Kentucky Lantern

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is again seeking public comments on a proposal to redefine what waters receive federal environmental protections, a move that could also have a broad impact on state water protections in Kentucky.

The Trump administration is allowing public comments until Oct. 9 on a “supplemental” rule to redefine federally protected Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act. It’s an action the EPA said would allow it to “evaluate a wider range of options” following a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that severely curtailed the federal government’s ability to regulate water pollution over certain types of wetlands.

It’s the second time the EPA is collecting public comments on the proposal. In January, Republican Kentucky Attorney General Russel Coleman and other Republican attorneys general wrote in a public comment that the federal government has long tried to overreach in their authority to regulate water pollution, arguing state governments are better suited to do so.



A section of Three Mile Creek.

RICHARD DURTSCHKE

“For too long, the agencies have over-expanded the definition — far exceeding lawful congressional authorization. The fallout from that overreach has been severe,” the attorneys general wrote. “Expansive definitions stripped states of their ability to regulate their own waters. Congress never intended that affront to traditional state authority.”

But environmental advocacy groups including and Kentucky’s own water pollution regulators have warned the redefinition could also mean a drastic rollback of state regulatory power over water pollution.

The GOP-controlled state legislature passed a law in 2025 — arguing the need for industry regulatory relief — that

largely ties the definition of protected state waters to the federal definition of navigable waters. At the time, environmental advocacy groups warned that ceding water protection limits to the federal government could threaten the groundwater of hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians.

In January, the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet published online infographics that warn at least 74% of stream miles, or an estimated more than 80,000 miles of streams, could lose environmental protections under the federal redefinition. The cabinet also wrote only 14% of Kentucky wetlands would be protected under a proposed federal redefinition.

In an infographic, the

cabinet wrote the state is in a “uniquely vulnerable position” because state water protections are tied to the federal definition of Waters of the United States.

“This means that questions about what waters the state protects will depend on

which political party is in power rather than a true scientific or geological standard,” the cabinet wrote.

The cabinet warned of the potential for more water pollution, less protection against flooding and impacts of waterfowl habitat.

Those interested in submitting a public comment on the federal proposal can do so online or by other means including mail.

Kentucky best workplaces 2027 registration now open

By **Tom Latek**
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM Kentucky) and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce are now accepting registrations for the 2027 Best Places to Work in Kentucky program, widely regarded as one of the state’s top recognitions of employer excellence.

Now entering its 23rd year, the Best Places to Work in Kentucky program sets the standard for workplace achievement, honoring companies that demonstrate exceptional commitment to fostering outstanding cultures where employees thrive and businesses succeed.

Participating organizations undergo a rigorous evaluation conducted by Workforce Research Group, which includes an in-depth assessment of policies and practices combined with confidential employee surveys. The process ensures that honorees represent the very best workplaces in the state—employers that not only attract and

retain top talent, but also drive innovation, growth, and economic strength for Kentucky.

Companies will compete in three categories: small (15–149 employees), medium (150–499 employees), and large (500+ employees), based on their number of U.S. employees (only Kentucky employees are surveyed). All participants receive detailed survey feedback to help strengthen workplace culture and business performance.

Go to <https://www.bestplacestoworkkentucky.com/registration> so you can register for the survey program.

Registrations must be submitted by Friday, December 11, 2026. Workforce Research Group will conduct employee surveys, and award winners will be announced in June 2027, at the Central Bank Center in Lexington. Final rankings will also be published in the Best Places to Work in Kentucky magazine.

For information about SHRM Kentucky, visit kyshrm.org.

For information about the Kentucky Chamber, go to kychamber.com.

Public Notices

below. Owner will consider bids prepared in compliance with the Instructions to Bidders issued by Owner, and delivered as follows:

1. Bid Date: Friday, October 16th, 2026

2. Bid Time: 1:00pm, local time.

3. Location: City of Nicholasville – City Hall 517 N. Main Street. Nicholasville, KY 40356.

B. Bids will be thereafter publicly opened and read aloud.

1.5 BID SECURITY

A. Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of 5 percent of the bid amount. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of 90 days after opening of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities and irregularities. Nothing in these bid documents shall obligate Owner to enter into a contract with any bidder. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

1.6 PREBID MEETING

A. Prebid Meeting: See

Public Notices

Document 002513 “Prebid Meetings.”

B. Prebid Meeting: A Prebid meeting for all bidders will be held at the City of Nicholasville – Police Department Community Room – 717 N. Main Street, Nicholasville, KY 40356 on Monday, October 5th, 2026, 10am local time. Prospective prime bidders are strongly recommended to attend.

1. Bidders’ Questions: Architect will provide responses at Prebid conference to bidders’ questions received up to two business days prior to conference.

1.7 DOCUMENTS

A. Printed Procurement and Contracting Documents: Obtain on or after September 21st, 2026, by contacting GRW’s Online Plan Room (<http://www.grwinc.com/plan-room>). Only complete sets of documents will be issued. Procurement of documents from GRW is required to Bid on the project from all Prime Bidders.

1. Electronic and Hard Copy Set

Public Notices

Cost: \$250.00, payable on the GRW Online Plan Room.

B. Viewing Procurement and Contracting Documents: Examine after, at the locations below:

1. Hard Copy Viewing: GRW – Suite 190 801 Corporate Drive Lexington, KY 40503

2. Hard Copy Viewing: City of Nicholasville – City Hall 517 N. Main Street. Nicholasville, KY 40356

3. Electronic Access: GRW Plan Room <http://www.grwinc.com/plan-room>

1.8 TIME OF COMPLETION AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

A. Successful bidder shall begin the Work on receipt of the Notice to Proceed and shall complete the Work within the Contract Time. Work is subject to liquidated damages of \$250/day.

B. Successful bidder shall complete substantial completion within (16 months) 480 days of issuance of “Notice to Proceed”.

Public Notices

1.9 BIDDER’S QUALIFICATIONS

A. Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work. A Performance Bond, separate Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Insurance in a form acceptable to Owner will be required of the successful Bidder. AIA305 – Contractors Qualification Statement to be provided as part of the Bid Package. Section “5 Financing” will be required of the Apparent Low Bidder after the Bid Opening.

1.10 NOTIFICATION

A. This Advertisement for Bids document is issued by the City of Nicholasville.

END OF DOCUMENT 001113

Jessamine Journal: Sept. 17, 24 and Oct. 1, 2026

BID#2026-319

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that on August 31, 2026; the Nicholasville City Commission enacted an ordinance, the full text of which is available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 517 North Main Street, Nicholasville, KY. **ORDINANCE 236-2026: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TAX RATES FOR THE CITY OF NICHOLASVILLE FOR THE YEAR 2027 FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND WATER CRAFT.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commission has studied its fiscal needs for fiscal year 2026/2027.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the rate of 19.7 cents per one hundred dollars of assessment be levied against all motor vehicles and water craft licensed in the City of Nicholasville, Kentucky for the tax year 2027.

This ordinance will take effect upon adoption, execution and publication.

Kathy Walker, City Clerk
September 17, 2026

Jessamine Journal: Sept. 17, 2026

ORDINANCE 236-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: SHELBY LOUISE COMBS A Minor

CASE NO. JU-23-1044.05

Notice is hereby given to Joanne Debra Elizabeth Finney, the mother of Shelby Louise

Public Notices

Combs, born 06-30-23, whose present whereabouts are unknown and cannot be ascertained after diligent search and inquiry; or any other person or persons who claim to have a legal interest in the following proceedings in the Juvenile Court of Mobile County, Alabama viz:

IN THE MATTER OF: SHELBY LOUISE COMBS A Minor

CASE NO. JU-23-1044.05

In the matter of the permanent custody and termination of parental rights of the parents of Shelby Louise Combs, born 06-30-23:

Heretofore/This 22nd day of September, 2025, came the STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES and filed in this Court a petition asking for the permanent custody and termination of parental rights of the parents of said child for the purpose of placing said minor for adoption.

The said Joanne Debra Elizabeth Finney, mother, shall respond to the complaint no later than 30 days after the last date of publication shown herein.

It is ORDERED by the Court that the 19th day of October, 2026, at 8:00 a.m., be appointed a day for hearing said petition, at which time all parties who claim to have a legal interest can appear and contest the same if they think proper.

Linda C. Jensen, District Judge

Jessamine Journal: Aug. 27, Sept. 3, 10 and 17, 2026

JU-23-1044.05

PUBLIC NOTICE

Storage yard
Denali Towing LLC
686 Montgomery AVE
Lexington KY 40505

2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee (Gray)
1J4RS6GG2BC745786
Lienholder Mariner Fin Llc
1260 WINCHESTER RD
LEXINGTON, KY
LEXINGTON KY 40505

Jessamine Journal: Sept. 17, 24 and Oct. 1, 2026

AV/11 JEEP

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that on August 31, 2026; the Nicholasville City Commission enacted an ordinance, the full text of which is available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 517 North Main Street, Nicholasville, KY. **ORDINANCE 235-2026: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TAX RATES FOR THE CITY OF NICHOLASVILLE FOR THE YEAR 2026 FOR REAL AND**

Public Notices

PERSONAL PROPERTY, THE BASE AMOUNT OF SAID TAXES BEING DUE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 2026, WITH A 10% PENALTY ADDED NOVEMBER 1, 2026, AND INTEREST OF 1% PER MONTH BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027, AND FOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED ON OR AFTER MARCH 1, 2027, AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY EQUAL TO THE GREATER OF \$75.00 OR 25% OF THE THEN-OUTSTANDING AMOUNT (INCLUDING THE 10% PENALTY AND ANY ACCRUED INTEREST) SHALL BE COLLECTED

WHEREAS, the Board of Commission has studied its fiscal needs for fiscal year 2026/2027.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the rate of 18.6 cents per one hundred dollars of assessment be levied against all real property located in the City of Nicholasville, Kentucky for the tax year 2026.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the rate of 18.6 cents per one hundred dollars of assessment be levied against all tangible personal property located in the City of Nicholasville, Kentucky for the tax year 2026.

The Tax Administrator is authorized and directed to present bills to the property owners of all taxable property in accordance with the above tax rates. The base amount of said taxes being due on or before October 31, 2026, with a 10% penalty added November 1, 2026, and interest of 1% per month beginning January 1, 2027. For payments received on or after March 1, 2027, an additional penalty equal to the greater of \$75.00 or 25% of the then-outstanding amount (including the 10% penalty and any accrued interest) shall be collected.

This ordinance will take effect upon adoption, execution and publication.

Kathy Walker, City Clerk
September 17, 2026

Jessamine Journal: Sept. 17, 2026

ORDINANCE 235-2026

Need to find the right employee?

WE CAN HELP.

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GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.