



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
3/27/2008

Ms. Lisa A. McClung, Director
Division of Water and Waste Management
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, West Virginia 25304-2345

Dear Ms. McClung:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, is pleased to approve the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for total iron, dissolved aluminum, pH, total selenium, fecal coliform bacteria and biological impairments on 106 waterbodies in the Gauley River Watershed. The TMDLs were submitted to EPA for approval on September 13, 2007, with corrections submitted on January 15, 2008. EPA commends West Virginia on completion of these TMDLs developed under the West Virginia TMDL program that follows the Watershed Management Framework cycle. We recognize the significant effort and dedication of you and your staff in developing these TMDLs.

In accordance with Federal regulations at 40 CFR §130.7, a TMDL must comply with the following requirements: (1) be designed to attain and maintain the applicable water quality standards; (2) include a total allowable loading and as appropriate, wasteload allocations for point sources and load allocations for nonpoint sources; (3) consider the impacts of background pollutant contributions; (4) take critical stream conditions into account (the conditions when water quality is most likely to be violated); (5) consider seasonal variations; (6) include a margin of safety (which accounts for any uncertainties in the relationship between pollutant loads and instream water quality); and (7) be subject to public participation. The TMDLs for the Gauley River Watershed satisfy each of these requirements. In addition, these TMDLs considered reasonable assurance that the TMDL allocations assigned to nonpoint sources can be reasonably met. A copy of EPA's Decision Rationale for approval of these TMDLs has been included with this letter.

As you know, any new or revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits must be consistent with the TMDL's Wasteload Allocation pursuant to 40 CFR §122.44(d)(1)(vii)(B). Please submit all such permits to EPA for review as per EPA's letter dated October 1, 1998.



If you have any questions concerning these TMDLs, please contact Ms. Jennifer Sincock, West Virginia TMDL Coordinator at (215) 814-5766 or Ms. Mary Kuo, TMDL Program Manager at (215) 814-5721.

Sincerely,

Signed

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Patrick Campbell, WVDEP
Mr. David Montali, WVDEP

