



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

Katheryn Emery, Director
Division of Water and Waste Management
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, West Virginia 25304

Dear Ms. Emery,

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) is pleased to approve the total iron, total selenium, dissolved aluminum, pH, and fecal coliform bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Lower Guyandotte River Watershed. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) submitted the report, *Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Lower Guyandotte River Watershed, West Virginia, Final Draft Report* (December 2021), the technical report, technical appendices, and allocation spreadsheets to EPA for review and approval on January 2, 2022. Draft versions of TMDLs were released for public comment beginning on June 14, 2021 to July 14, 2021, and again from October 4, 2021 to November 4, 2021. The TMDLs were established to address use impairments as identified on West Virginia's 2016 Section 303(d) List.

The TMDLs were established and submitted in accordance with Sections 303(d)(1)(c) and 303(d)(2) of the Clean Water Act. Our review indicates that the load and wasteload allocations in the TMDLs have been established at levels necessary that, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards addressed by these TMDLs. A copy of EPA's rationale for approval is enclosed. Using fecal coliform as a surrogate to address organic enrichment impairments has been WVDEP's approach for many years. With the number of TMDLs that have been established and presumably implemented, EPA encourages WVDEP to use post-TMDL monitoring data to evaluate the assumption that implementation of fecal TMDL's remove the majority of sources of organic enrichment stress and resolves aquatic life impairments due to organic enrichment.

As you are aware, any new or revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits must be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL wasteload allocations pursuant to 40 CFR §122.44 (d)(1)(vii)(B). Please continue to submit all such permits to EPA for review as per EPA's letters dated September 29, 1998, and July 7, 2009.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 215-814-2737 or have your staff contact, Ms. Leah Ettema, West Virginia TMDL Coordinator, at 215-814-2166 or Leah.Ettema@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Libertz, Director
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. John Wirts, WVDEP (via email)
Ms. Mindy Neil, WVDEP (via email)