



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
April 8, 2005

Dr. Richard Eskin, Acting Director
Technical and Regulatory Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 540
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

Dear Dr. Eskin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III is establishing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Interstate Christina River Basin. These TMDLs were established in accordance with Section 303(d)(1)(c) and (2) of the Clean Water Act to address impairments within the Christina River Basin including sediment, nutrients, and bacteria. Segments were listed for their failure to attain the aquatic life and recreational uses.

In accordance with Federal regulations at 40 CFR § 130.7, a TMDL must comply with the following requirements: (1) designed to attain and maintain the applicable water quality standards; (2) include a total allowable loading and, as appropriate, wasteload allocations (WLAs) 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 uncertainties in the relationship between pollutant loads and instream water quality); (7) consider reasonable assurance that the TMDL can be met; and (8) be subject to public participation. The TMDLs for the Christina River Basin satisfy each of these requirements. Copies of TMDL reports, modeling reports, and Response to Comments documents have been included with this letter.

Following the establishment of these TMDLs, Maryland is required to incorporate these TMDLs into Maryland's Water Quality Management Plan pursuant to 40 CFR § 130.7(d)(2). As you know, all new or revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits must be consistent with the TMDL WLA 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 or comments concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Thomas Henry at (215) 814-5752.

Sincerely,

Signed

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosures

cc: James George, MDE - TARSA
Robert Summers, Director, Water Management Administration, MDE
Melissa Chatham, MDE-TARSA