



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
4/7/2007

Ms. Cathy Curran Myers
Deputy Secretary for Water Management
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Ms. Myers:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III is establishing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for PCBs for the Schuylkill River. This TMDL was established in accordance with Section 303(d)(1)(c) and (2) of the Clean Water Act to address impairments of water quality as first identified on Pennsylvania's 1996 Section 303(d) list. The Schuylkill River was listed due to the presence of a fish consumption advisory from elevated PCB concentrations found in fish tissue.

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 TMDL for the Schuylkill River satisfied each of these requirements. A copy of the TMDL Report has been included with this letter.

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, EPA Region III TMDL Program Manager, at (215) 814-5752.

Sincerely,

John Armstead for

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Glenn Rider, PADEP
Mr. Bill Brown, PADEP
Mr. Jenifer Fields, PADEP SERO
Mr. Desiree Henning-Dudley, PADEP SERO