



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

DEC 06 2010

Mr. John Madras
Director, Water Protection Program
Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
1101 Riverside Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Mr. Madras:

Re: Approval of Cave Springs Branch TMDLs

This letter responds to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) submission of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document which contains total nitrogen and total phosphorus TMDLs for Cave Springs Branch segment 3245U-01. The document was originally received by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7, on October 27, 2010. Revisions were made to the original submittal and the final version was resubmitted on November 18, 2010.

Cave Springs Branch was identified on the EPA-approved 2008 Missouri § 303(d) List as impaired for nutrients. This submission fulfills the Clean Water Act statutory requirement to develop TMDLs for impairments listed on a state's § 303(d) List. The specific impairments (water body segment and pollutants) are:


<u>Water Body Name</u>	<u>WBID</u>	<u>Pollutants</u>
Cave Springs Branch	MO_3245U-01	nutrients (total nitrogen and total phosphorus)

EPA has completed its review of the TMDL document with supporting documentation and information. By this letter, EPA approves the submitted TMDLs. Enclosed with this letter is the EPA Region 7 TMDL Decision Document summarizing the rationale for EPA's approval of the TMDLs. EPA believes the separate elements of the TMDL document, described in the enclosed form adequately address the pollutants of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety. Although EPA does not approve the monitoring plan submitted by the state, EPA acknowledges the state's efforts. EPA understands that the state may use the monitoring plan to gauge the effectiveness of the TMDL document and determine if future revisions are necessary or appropriate to meet applicable water quality standards.

EPA is currently in consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Cave Springs Branch TMDL. While we are approving this TMDL at the present time, we may decide that changes to the TMDL document are warranted based upon the results of the consultation when it is completed.

We appreciate the thoughtful effort that MDNR has put into this TMDL. We will continue to cooperate with and assist, as appropriate, in future efforts by MDNR to develop TMDLs.

Sincerely,


William A. Spratlin
Director
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Hoke
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Gerald Babao
American Canoe Association

Mr. Paul Sanford
American Canoe Association

Mr. Scott Dye
Sierra Club

Mr. John Simpson
KS Natural Resource Council