



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

JAN 2 2009

Mr. Richard Leopold, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Henry A. Wallace Building
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Re: Approval of TMDL for Blue Lake

Dear Mr. Leopold:

This letter responds to the submission from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) originally received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7, on June 2, 2008, for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document which contained a TMDL for algae and turbidity. Blue Lake was identified on the 2006 Iowa § 303(d) list as impaired. 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>Pollutant(s)</u>
Blue Lake	IA 06-WEM-00445-L_0	algae and turbidity

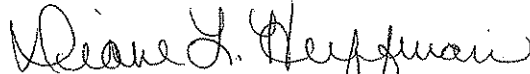
EPA has completed its review of the TMDL with supporting documentation and information. By this letter, EPA approves the submitted TMDL. Enclosed with this letter is the Region 7 TMDL Decision Document which summarizes the rationale for EPA's approval of the TMDL. EPA believes the separate elements of the TMDL 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 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 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding this TMDL document. While we are approving this TMDL at the present time, we may decide that changes to the TMDL are warranted based upon the results of the consultation when it is completed.



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

Sincerely,



William A. Spratlin *for WAS*
Director
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Allen Bonini
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Richard Nelson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mr. Wallace Taylor
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Mr. Lawrence McLellan
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Mr. Michael Breitbach
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