

CEDAR RIVER – *E. Coli*
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES
Prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division
February 2010

COMMENTOR(S):

Brad Jesse, Resident, LaPorte City, Iowa
Barry Jesse, Resident, LaPorte City, Iowa
Tracy Meise, Planning & Project Superintendent, Charles City, Iowa
Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau, West Des Moines, Iowa
Kent Shultz, Resident, Osage, Iowa

INTRODUCTION

The Cedar River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for *E. Coli* was public noticed from December 29, 2009 to February 10, 2010. This document summarizes public comments and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responses. Any changes to the final TMDL are explained in the Summary of Changes to the Final TMDL. Similar comments on a single topic are summarized as one comment, but each commentor is referenced. If no change is noted in the response, then no change is made in the final TMDL.

Comment 1:

Commentors expressed concerns over: the requirement to keep cattle out of the river and the resulting financial impact, and the contribution of *E. coli* from livestock lots, manure spreading, and wastewater treatment plants on the Cedar River watershed. A concern was also expressed about the runoff of pesticides, herbicides, and oil from cities into the creeks and rivers. Suggestions for improving water quality were also provided, including filter strips and sand filtration. Commentors: Kent Shultz, resident, Osage, Iowa, January 25, 2010; Brad Jesse, resident, LaPorte City, Iowa, January 25, 2010; and Barry Jesse, resident, LaPorte, Iowa, February 5, 2010.

Response 1:

Thanked commentors for their comments and suggestions on reductions of contamination, provided a link to the Cedar River TMDL on EPA's website <http://www.epa.gov/region07/water/tmdl> to assist with information on location of pollution by mile markers, maps, and pollution data. Also emphasized that EPA is sensitive to the concerns of the agricultural community and will continue to seek feedback from agricultural stakeholders as TMDLs are developed and public noticed.

Comment 2:

Commenter requested clarification of the Dam location included in the Cedar River TMDL. The river segment is listed as IA 02-CED-0110_2; Charles City Dam, number 2, to confluence with Rock Creek. Legal description is: NW 1/4, NE 1/4, S12, T95N, R16W. There are two dams

located within 200 feet of each other in Charles City, Iowa. One is referred to as the Main Street Dam (upper dam) the other is Beauty Dam (lower dam). Planned improvement projects need to apply the TMDL to the correct dam. Commentor: Tracy Meise, Planning & Project Superintendent, Charles City, Iowa, initial comment January 7, 2010, subsequent discussions related to same dam identification issues took place on January 11, 2010, and January 13, 2010.

Response 2:

The northern-most dam (of the two) is the Dam number 2 referred to in the TMDL.

Comment 3:

The commentor asked questions on the process for establishing the Cedar River TMDL, and when it will be final. Questions included why Iowa did not develop and submit the TMDL for approval to the EPA, when will the TMDL be finalized, and what is the public notice process. Commentor: Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau, January 14, 2010.

Response 3:

The TMDL needed to be completed this year to meet EPA lawsuit deadlines. Iowa requested that EPA establish the TMDL. After public notice ends, comments will be reviewed and appropriate edits will be made to the TMDL. The TMDL will be finalized this month.

Summary of Changes to the Final TMDL

Appendix D-1 has been updated for the City of Cedar Rapids permit flow type and language has been added to page 61 for clarity.