



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

APR 01 2011

Mr. Roger L. Lande  
Director  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Henry A. Wallace Building  
502 East 9th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034

Dear Mr. Lande:

Re: Approval of *E. coli* Bacteria TMDL for Lake of Three Fires

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 April 19, 2010, for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address the water quality pollutant *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria in Lake of Three Fires located in Taylor County. A final revised TMDL document was submitted and received on January 4, 2011. This submission fulfills the Clean Water Act statutory requirement to develop TMDLs for impairments listed on a state's § 303(d) list. The nutrient and siltation TMDLs for Lake of Three Fires were approved in 2002. For this TMDL document, the specific water body segment and the associated pollutant are listed as follows:

<u>Water Body Name</u>	<u>WBID</u>	<u>Pollutant</u>
Lake of Three Fires	IA 05-PLA-00335-L_0	<i>E. coli</i> bacteria

EPA has completed its review of the TMDL with supporting documentation and information. By this letter, EPA approves the submitted TMDL document. Enclosed with this letter is the Region 7 TMDL Decision Document that summarizes the rationale for EPA's approval of the TMDL. EPA believes that the key elements of the TMDL document described in the enclosed form adequately address the pollutants of concern, with considerations of seasonal variation and critical flow conditions. 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 TMDLs and determine if future revisions are necessary or appropriate to meet applicable water quality standards.

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

Sincerely,



Karen Flournoy  
Acting Director  
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Allen Bonini  
Mr. Jeff Berckes (w/encl. via hard copy)  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Mike Coffey  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mr. Wallace Taylor  
The Sierra Club

Mr. Jerry Anderson  
Drake University School of Law

Mr. Lawrence McLellan  
Sullivan & Ward P.C.

Mr. Michael Breitbach  
Mr. Sol Simon  
Mississippi River Revival

Ms. Regina Thiry  
SAILORS, Inc.