



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

JUN 24 2008

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

Dear Mr. Leopold:

Re: Approval of TMDLs for Raccoon River Basin

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 December 21, 2007, for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document which contained TMDLs for nitrate and *E. coli*. The Raccoon River, Middle Raccoon River, and North Raccoon River were identified on the 2004 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 pollutant) are:

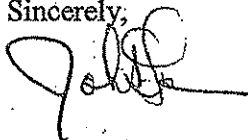
<u>Water Body Name</u>	<u>WBID</u>	<u>pollutant(s)</u>
Raccoon River	IA 04-RAC-0010-1	nitrate
	IA 04-RAC-0010-2	nitrate
Middle Raccoon River	IA 04-RAC-0200-3	nitrate
Raccoon River	IA 04-RAC-0010-1	<i>E. coli</i>
	IA 04-RAC-0010-2	<i>E. coli</i>
North Raccoon River	IA 04-RAC-0040-1	<i>E. coli</i>
	IA 04-RAC-0040-5	<i>E. coli</i>
	IA 04-RAC-0040-6	<i>E. coli</i>

EPA has completed its review of the TMDLs with supporting documentation and information. By this letter, EPA approves the submitted TMDLs. Enclosed with this letter is the Region 7 TMDL Decision Document which summarizes the rationale for EPA's approval of the TMDLs. EPA believes the separate elements of the TMDLs described in the enclosed form adequately address the pollutants of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety.

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 these TMDLs at the present time, we may decide that changes to the TMDLs are warranted based upon the results of the consultation when it is completed.

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

Sincerely,



William A. Spratlin
Director
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

Enclosure

cc: Allen Bonini
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Richard Nelson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wallace Taylor
Esq.

Jerry Anderson
Drake University School of Law

Lawrence McLellan
Sullivan & Ward P.C.

Michael Breitbach
Mississippi River Revival

Regina Thiry
SAILORS, Inc.

Sol Simon
Mississippi River Revival