



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
John H. Tippets, Director

November 8, 2016

Dennis McLerran
Regional Administrator, Region 10
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 6th Ave.
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Approval of Idaho's application for NPDES delegated authority

Dear Mr. McLerran:

On September 30, 2016, DEQ received U.S. EPA's findings of completeness regarding the IPDES program application package. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that went into reviewing the application package as well as the help EPA provided during the development of the package. Idaho's submission has been posted to the DEQ webpage at: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/ipdes/program-application/>

As provided by 40 CFR 123.21(d), DEQ requests that the statutory review period for the program submission be extended with an ending date of June 30, 2018. As identified in the IPDES program description, DEQ intends to build capacity for the program over the next 18 months including hiring most of the remainder of the staff needed to draft permits and ensure compliance. In the 2017 Legislative session, DEQ is requesting an additional 10 full time equivalents that will bring the total number of FTEs working in the IPDES program to 22; with the remaining FTEs to be hired in calendar years 2018 and 2019. During this review period DEQ will continue working with EPA and stakeholders to address the items identified in your letter of September 30th and additional guidance documents that will help DEQ implement the IPDES program.

An extension of the statutory review period will be mutually beneficial to meet the commitments of the approval process. DEQ looks forward to continued collaboration in the development of the program and ensuring its long-term success.

If you have any questions, please contact Barry Burnell, Water Quality Division Administrator at Barry.Burnell@deq.idaho.gov or Mary Anne Nelson, IPDES Program Manager at Mary.Anne.Nelson@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John H. Tippets".

John H. Tippets
Director

c: Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
Senator Brent Hill, President Pro Tempore
Representative Scott Bedke, Speaker of the House
Dan Opalski, EPA
Michael Lidgard, EPA
Barry Burnell, DEQ
Douglas Conde, IAG