

November 15, 2019

Cathy Stepp  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Cathy Stepp:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is submitting a letter in support of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (Red Lake Band) for treatment as a State to administer programs under Sections 303 (impaired waters) and 401 (water quality standards) of the federal Clean Water Act.

The Red Lake Band has extensive trust lands that have, in the past, represented logistical challenges with regards to determining jurisdiction. However, the MPCA has been working cooperatively with the Red Lake Band for the past couple of years and are in agreement with respect to boundaries.

The MPCA has a practice of working closely with tribes on water quality issues on border waters, and offer to do so as the Red Lake Band moves forward with developing and implementing a water quality standards program. If the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves the Red Lake Band's application for treatment as a State, the MPCA is interested in working cooperatively with the Red Lake Band on the development of water quality standards that are supportive for protection of waters which cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Historically, the State and the tribes have worked together successfully to protect natural resources, and we believe that establishment of water quality standards is another opportunity to achieve similar successes.

We look forward to collaborating on water quality activities to learn from and support each other in achieving our water quality protection goals. We would be happy to share any information that may be helpful to the Red Lake Band in its efforts to develop and implement water quality standards.

Sincerely,



Katrina Kessler, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner

KK/PA:vs

cc: Shane Bowe, DNR, Red Lake

