UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Thomas P. Jacobus
General Manager
Washington Aqueduct Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5900 MacArthur Boulevard, NW
Washington, DC 20016-2514

NOV 04 2005

Dear ~~Mr. Jacobus~~ Tom:

Thank you for your October 3, 2005 letter regarding implementation of improved pH control measures at the Dalecarlia and McMillan treatment plants. It is unfortunate that the funding will not be available to implement the caustic soda trimming operation at McMillan in 2006, in advance of the 2008 installation at the Dalecarlia plant. However, we understand that you are working within certain budgetary constraints.

Operators at both plants have used existing equipment to maintain pH within the interim optimal corrosion control treatment (OCCT) range of 7.7 ± 0.3, as specified in our September 8, 2004 letter. Based on our review of the pH data from both plants, we note that in several months pH has been very close to the goal of 7.7 ± 0.1 units. The measures already instituted by the Washington Aqueduct, including installation of the mixer in the 30 million gallon clearwell at Dalecarlia and the notification procedures at both plants, should be sufficient to control pH within the interim OCCT range and close to the pH goal until such time that caustic soda trimming facilities can be installed at both plants.

We will anticipate implementation of caustic soda storage, feed, and control systems at both plants in 2008. Please keep us apprised of any developments related to this project. If you have any questions, please contact me or call Rick Rogers, Drinking Water Branch Chief, at (215) 814-5711.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

cc: Jerry Johnson, DCWASA
Hugh Eggborn, VDH

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