



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

April 6, 1999

Mr. James M. Seif, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Re: Cheat River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

Dear Mr. Seif:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, is pleased to approve the Cheat River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), submitted to EPA on March 3, 1999. The TMDL was established and submitted in accordance with Section 303(d)(1)(c) and (2) of the Clean Water Act. The TMDL was established to address impairment of water quality as identified in Pennsylvania's 1996 Section 303(d) list. Pennsylvania identifies the impairment for this water quality limited segment of the Cheat River based on exceedances of Pennsylvania's criteria for chlordane in the water column as determined through fish tissue sampling. This segment of the Cheat River is located in Fayette County, southwestern Pennsylvania.

In accordance with federal regulations found in 40 CFR §130.7, a TMDL must: be designed to meet water quality standards; include, as appropriate, both wasteload allocations (from point sources) and load allocations (from nonpoint sources); consider the impacts of background pollutant contributions; take critical stream conditions into account (the conditions when water quality is most likely to be violated); consider seasonal variations; include a margin of safety (which accounts for any uncertainties in the relationship between pollutant loads and instream water quality); and be subject to public participation. The enclosure to this letter further describes how the Cheat River TMDL satisfies each of these requirements.

Following the approval of this TMDL, Pennsylvania shall incorporate it into the state's Water Quality Management Plan pursuant to 40 CFR §130.7(d)(2). As you know, any new or revised National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permits with applicable effluent limits must be consistent with the TMDL's Waste Load Allocation (WLA) pursuant to 40 CFR §122.44(d)(1)(VII)(B).

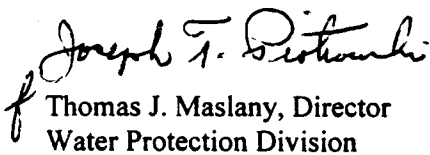
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Please submit all such permits to EPA for review consistent with our letter dated October 1, 1998. If you have further questions, please call me or have your staff contact Mr. Thomas Henry, the TMDL Program Manager at (215) 814-5752.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Maslany, Director  
Water Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Robert Yowell, Acting Deputy Secretary for Water Management  
Mr. Terry Fabian, Deputy Secretary for Field Operations