United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region III
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Proposed Revision to Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria and Sediment in the Christina River Basin Watershed Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland

Established on April 8, 2005:

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Revised on , 2006

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Proposed Revision to Christina River Basin Bacteria TMDLs

On April 8, 2005, the Region III (Philadelphia, PA) office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for bacteria and sediment for the portions of the Christina River Basin listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) lists for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of Delaware. As explained below, EPA is now proposing revisions to the bacteria TMDLs and is seeking public comments on these revisions for a period of 45 days.

The Christina River Basin TMDLs were approved in April 2005 in order to partially fulfill the requirements of the settlement of a 1996 lawsuit in Pennsylvania *(American Littoral Society and Public Interest Group of Pennsylvania v. EPA)*. The consent decree requires that EPA either approve or establish a certain number of TMDLs for Pennsylvania streams by April 9, 2005. In addition, the settlement of a 1996 lawsuit in Delaware *(American Littoral Society and Sierra Club v. EPA)* required that the Christina River, Red Clay Creek, White Clay Creek, and the Brandywine Creek bacteria TMDLs be approved or established by December 31, 2005.

Following the establishment of the TMDLs EPA decided, for several reasons, to conduct a re-evaluation of the Christina River Basin bacteria TMDLs. An additional comment period is being provided to allow the public to review the changes being proposed by EPA as well as to further review the water quality model used. EPA has also more clearly addressed the percent reduction necessary at Wilmington and the impacts on MS4s. Please note that although the bacteria TMDL Report contains sediment TMDLs for Pennsylvania, the sediment TMDLs are not part of this revision and, therefore, is not part of this comment opportunity.

EPA and the States were able to:

- Evaluate certain assumptions and data used
  - Consider the applicability of the MOS used
  - Evaluate model sensitivity
  - Evaluate various levels of treatment at Wilmington
- Allow consideration of additional wet weather data
- Allow consideration of implementation of Wilmington's LTCP
- Re-evaluate boundary conditions used and
- Apply reductions to groups of individual CSOs

The proposed revisions to the April 8, 2005, Christina River Basin bacteria TMDLs only affect *enterococci* bacteria in the lower Brandywine Creek, tidal Christina River, and Little Mill Creek portions of the basin. The proposed revisions do not impact the previously established sediment TMDLs or the fecal coliform bacteria TMDLs in Pennsylvania. No changes have been made to the technical analysis and modeling framework used as the basis to develop the Christina River Basin TMDLs. No changes have been made to the endpoints used in the TMDL analysis. The proposed revisions are sufficient to meet water quality standards.

Specific changes in allocations are limited to The City of Wilmington's combined sewer discharges and for Little Mill Creek. Numerical changes are limited to Tables 4-5 and 4-6. For reference the revised April 2001 Tables are included in Appendix E.

Revisions to Bacteria and Sediment TMDLs for Christina River Basin, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland

Draft

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3
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Table of Contents

Table of Contents i
List of Tables iii
List of Figures iii

1.0 Introduction 1-1
1.1 Historical Perspective 1-2
1.2 Background Information 1-3
1.3 Impairment Listing 1-7
1.3.1 Bacteria Impairments 1-7
1.3.2 Sediment Impairments 1-8
1.4 Water Quality Standards 1-10
1.4.1 Pennsylvania WQS 1-10
1.4.2 Delaware WQS 1-12

2.0 Source Assessment 2-1
2.1 Point Sources 2-1
2.1.1 Wastewater Treatment Plants 2-2
2.1.2 Combined Sewer Overflows 2-8
2.1.3 Stormwater Phase II Communities 2-9
2.2 Nonpoint Sources 2-13
2.2.1 Septic Systems 2-13
2.2.2 Agriculture Activities 2-14
2.2.3 Wildlife 2-17
2.2.3 Domestic Pets 2-17

3.0 TMDL Endpoint Determination 3-1
3.1 Bacteria TMDL Endpoints 3-1
3.2 Sediment TMDL Endpoints 3-1
3.2.1 Reference Watershed Approach 3-1
3.2.2 Considerations for Reference Watershed Selection 3-2
3.2.3 Selected Reference Watershed and Endpoints 3-2

4.0 TMDL Methodology and Calculation 4-1
4.1 Bacteria TMDL 4-1
4.1.1 Methodology 4-1
4.1.2 TMDL Calculation 4-3
4.1.3 Waste Load Allocations 4-3
4.1.4 Load Allocations 4-3
4.1.5 CSO Overflows 4-4
4.1.6 TMDL Results and Allocations 4-4

4.1.6.1 Fecal Coliform Bacteria 4-4
4.1.6.2 Enterococci Baceria 4-6
4.1.7 Consideration of Critical Conditions 4-10
4.1.7 Consideration of Seasonal Variation 4-10
4.1.8 Margin of Safety 4-10
4.2 Sediment TMDL 4-11
4.2.1 Methodology 4-11
4.2.2 TMDL Calculation 4-11
4.2.3 Waste Load Allocations 4-11
4.2.4 Load Allocations 4-15
4.2.5 TMDL Results and Allocations 4-15
4.2.6 Critical Conditions 4-16
4.2.7 Seasonal Variations 4-17
4.2.8 Margin of Safety 4-17

5.0 Reasonable Assurance and Implementation 5-1

6.0 Public Participation 6-1

7.0 References 7-1

Appendix A: Pennsylvania Comprehensive Stormwater Management Policy
Appendix B: EPA Guidance on TMDLs, WLAs, and Storm Water Discharges (MS4)
Appendix C: Land Use Areas and Allocations for MS4 Municipalities in Chester County
Appendix D: Revisions to April 2005 Bacteria TMDL for Christina River Basin
Appendix E: April 2005 Tables

List of Tables

Table 1-1. Christina River Basin land use summary (square miles) 1-4
Table 1-2. Subbasins in the HSPF models of Christina River Basin 1-6
Table 1-3. Segments impaired by bacteria in Christina River Basin 1-7
Table 1-4. Pennsylvania streams requiring TMDLs for sediment on 1996 303(d) list 1-8
Table 1-5. Pennsylvania streams requiring TMDLs for sediment on 1998 303(d) list 1-9
Table 1-6. Pennsylvania water quality standards (PA Code, Title 25, Chapter 93.7) 1-11
Table 1-7. Delaware bacteria water quality standards, enterococcus (cfu/100mL) 1-12
Table 2-1. NPDES point source discharges in Christina River Basin 2-4
Table 2-2. Fecal coliform enterococci, and sediment loads for NPDES facilities 2-7
Table 2-3. Aggregated land use categories used for MS4 assessments 2-10
Table 2-4. Municipalities with MS4 permits in Christina River Basin 2-10
Table 2-5. Census data related to septic system estimation 2-14
Table 2-6. Livestock inventories from 1992, 1997, and 2002 USDA Ag Census 2-15
Table 2-7. Fecal coliform bacteria accumulation rates for Chester County 2-15

Table 2-8. Enterococci accumulation rates for Chester County 2-16
Table 2-9. Enterococci accumulation rates for New Castle County 2-16
Table 2-10. Estimated wildlife density for associated land uses in Christina River Basin 2-17
Table 3-1. Land-use characteristics of impaired subbasins and reference watersheds 3-4
Table 3-2. Sediment endpoints for Christina River Basin TMDL 3-4
Table 4-1. Fecal coliform bacteria TMDL allocations for Christina River Basin 4-5
Table 4-2. Fecal coliform TMDL allocations for MS4 municipalities..... 4-5
Table 4-3. Septic load TMDL allocations of fecal coliform bacteria 4-6
Table 4-4. State line allocations for Christina River Basin enterococci bacteria TMDL 4-7
Table 4-5. Summary of CSO enterococci baseline loads and WLA TMDL 4-7
Table 4-6. Allocations for Christina River Basin enterococci bacteria TMDL 4-8
Table 4-7. Allocations for Christina River Basin sediment TMDL 4-15
Table 4-8. Sediment allocations for towns in Brandywine Creek Watershed 4-16
Table 4-9. Sediment allocations for towns in Red Clay Creek Watershed 4-16
Table 4-10. Sediment allocations for towns in White Clay Creek Watershed 4-16

List of Figures

Figure 1-1. Christina River Basin delineation of HSPF subbasins and EFDC grid 1-5
Figure 2-1. NPDES discharges in Christina River Basin 2-3
Figure 2-2. Municipalities with MS4 permits in Christina River Basin..... 2-12
Figure 3-1. Reference watershed approach for derivation of TMDL target limits..... 3-3
Figure 3-2. Locations of reference watersheds in the Christina River Basin 3-5
Figure 4-1. Locations of stream segments impaired by bacteria 4-2
Figure 4-2. Locations of CSO discharges in relation to EFDC grid cells 4-9
Figure 4-3. Stream segments impaired by sediment on Pennsylvania 1996 303(d) list..... 4-13
Figure 4-4. Stream segments impaired by sediment on Pennsylvania 1998 303(d) list..... 4-14