



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
March 24, 2005

Ms. Cathy Curran Myers
Deputy Secretary for Water Management
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Ms. Myers:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the *Middle Branch Big Run Watershed*, Clinton County, submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on February 15, 2005 and received by EPA for review and approval on February 18, 2005. The TMDLs were established and submitted in accordance with Sections 303(d)(1)(c) and 303(d)(2) of the Clean Water Act. The TMDLs were established to address impairments of water quality as identified in Pennsylvania's 1996, 1998, and 2002 Section 303(d) lists of impaired waters still needing TMDLs. A rationale of our approval is enclosed.

Following the approval of this TMDL, PADEP 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 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits with applicable effluent limits must be consistent with the TMDL's wasteload allocation pursuant to 40 CFR § 122.44(d)(1)(VII)(B).

Any such permit should be submitted 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 Ms. Mary F. Beck at (215) 814-3429.

Sincerely,

Signed

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Fred Marrocco, DEP
Robert Yowell, DEP NCRO
Michael Smith, Moshannon DMO

Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-438-2474