UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

21 OCT 2004

Jim Hull, Director
Water Pollution Control Program
Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Hull:

Re: Approval of the TMDL for Tributary to Big Otter Creek

This letter responds to the submission from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) received by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on |October 04, 2004, for one Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document which contains a TMDL for pH. Tributary to Big Otter Creek was identified on the 1998 and the 2002 Missouri §303(d) lists as impaired as a result of pH. This submission fulfills the Clean Water Act statutory requirement to develop TMDLs for impairments listed on a state's §303(d) list. The specific impairment (water body segment and pollutant) are:

Water Body Name	WBID	Listed pollutant	TMDL pollutant
Tributary to Big Otter Creek	1225	pH	pH

EPA has completed its review of the TMDL with supporting documentation and information. By this letter, EPA approves the submitted TMDL. Enclosed with this letter is the Region 7 TMDL Decision Document which summarizes the rationale for EPA's approval of the TMDL. The EPA believes the separate elements of the TMDL described in the enclosed form adequately address the pollutant of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety.

EPA is currently in consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding this TMDL. While EPA is approving this TMDL at the present time, EPA may decide that changes to the TMDL are warranted based upon the results of the consultation when it is completed.

RECYCLE

EPA appreciates the thoughtful effort that MDNR has put into this TMDL. EPA will continue to cooperate with and assist, as appropriate, in future efforts by MDNR to develop the remaining TMDLs.

Sincerely,

Leo J. Alderman
Director
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

Enclosure

cc: Ann Crawford
TMDL Coordinator, Jefferson City, MO

Phil Schroeder
MO Dept of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO

Scott Dye
Sierra Club, Columbia, MO