UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

JAN 11 2006

Mr. Mike Linder
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
1200 N Street, The Atrium, Suite 400
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

Dear Mr. Linder:

Thank you for the submission dated December 8, 2005, requesting approval of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The Loup River Basin, Niobrara River Basin, and the White River Hat Creek Basin TMDLs have been evaluated for *E.coli* bacteria impairment. The Iron Horse Trail Lake TMDL has been evaluated for nutrients and sediment. We have completed our review of these TMDLs as submitted by your office and in accordance with §303(d) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et.seq.), we approve all aspects of these TMDLs.

Enclosed are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 review forms which summarize the rationale for EPA's approval of these TMDLs. EPA believes the separate elements of the TMDLs described in the enclosed form adequately address the pollutant of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety.

Again, EPA appreciates the thoughtful teamwork and partnering effort that Nebraska has put forth in the development of this TMDL and will continue to cooperate with and assist, as appropriate, in future efforts by Nebraska to develop the remaining TMDLs on the current Nebraska §303(d) list of impaired water bodies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Delashmit, Branch Chief, Water Quality Management Branch, at (913)551-7821.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Patrick O'Brien,
NE Dept of Environmental Quality w/enclosure

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