UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

2 8 JAN 2002

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Henry A. Wallace Building
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Mr. Vonk:

Re: Approval of six TMDLs submitted by Iowa

This letter responds to the submission from Iowa dated December 13, 2001, of six Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), which were identified on the 1998 Iowa §303(d) list. These TMDLs are the following: Silver Lake, nutrients and organic enrichment; Rock Creek Lake, siltation and nutrients (two TMDLs bundled); Lake Miami, siltation and nutrients (bundled); Arrowhead Pond, siltation; Yellow Smoke Lake, siltation; and Bob White Lake, siltation.

Although the 1998 Iowa §303(d) list also identifies Bob White Lake as impaired by nutrients, the December 13th submission letter recognizes a TMDL for Bob White Lake for nutrients is not required at this time due to a lack of evidence indicating aquatic life in the lake is impaired by nutrients. EPA agrees with Iowa's conclusion that the nutrient TMDL is not required due to the fact there is no data or information available to support the 1998 §303(d) listing of Bob White Lake as not supporting the aquatic life designated use due to nutrient impacts. The siltation TMDL for Bob White Lake specifies monitoring requirements to be conducted over the next three years which will help to determine whether other impacts, including nutrients, are in fact impairing aquatic life in this lake.

We have completed our review of these TMDLs, with supporting documentation and information, 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 six TMDLs. Enclosed with this letter are Region 7 TMDL Review Forms which summarize the rationale for EPA's approval of each of these six TMDLs. The EPA believes the separate elements of the TMDLs described in the enclosed forms adequately address the pollutants of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety.

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EPA is currently in consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding these TMDLs. While EPA is approving these TMDLs at the present time, EPA may decide that changes to these TMDLs are warranted based upon the results of the consultation when it is completed. However, because the phased approach is used in these TMDLs, USFWS will also have future opportunities to review any revisions to the TMDLs based on phase 2 recommendations.

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

Sincerely,

U. Gale Hutton
Director
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

Enclosures

cc. William Ehm, IA Dept of Natural Resources, Des Moines, IA
Richard Nelson, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island, IL