



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
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OCT 22 2008

Jon L. Craig
Director, Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
707 North Robinson Avenue
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677

Dear Mr. Craig:

Re: Final EPA Action on Oklahoma 2008 Section 303(d) List

Thank you for your September 16, 2008, submission of Oklahoma's 2008 Integrated Report and section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the submission and supporting documentation, and determined that the 2008 section 303(d) list meets the requirements of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations. These requirements and a summary of EPA's review of Oklahoma's compliance with these regulations are described in the enclosed decision document. By this final action, EPA approves the State's decisions regarding all segments and associated pollutants identified in the final 2008 section 303(d) list, and the associated priority rankings for development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).

Oklahoma's 2008 section 303(d) list now includes 743 waterbody segments and 1,758 segment-pollutant combinations. EPA recognizes that Oklahoma agencies made significant progress in reducing the number of segments previously classified as having insufficient information to assess water quality conditions by monitoring 140 additional segments in this listing cycle. These efforts resulted in an increase in section 303(d) listed segments, and an increase in numbers of segments reported as attaining applicable water quality standards.

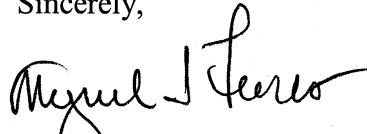
EPA also recognizes that the State of Oklahoma made progress toward meeting the deadline for submittal of the Integrated Report. As in past years, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) staff sent a draft version of the section 303(d) list to EPA, including the rationales for not including specific waterbody segments on the list. ODEQ staff patiently answered questions and provided additional documentation, upon request by EPA. This information and assistance was very helpful in expediting EPA's review of the final submission. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is anything we can do to enable Oklahoma to meet the April 1, 2010, deadline.

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EPA also greatly appreciates ODEQ's efforts to submit water quality assessment results in a standard electronic format. This enables EPA to automate some aspects of the review and evaluate the information more efficiently. Further, this significantly reduces the time, effort, and cost required for EPA to compile the data with those submitted by other States, Territories, and Tribes when preparing the National Water Quality Inventory Report to Congress.

Thank you again for your efforts in developing Oklahoma's 2008 section 303(d) list and for your cooperation in addressing EPA's questions. We are sincerely grateful for your help in streamlining the section 303(d) list review process. If you have questions, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or Charlie Howell at (214) 665-8354.

Sincerely,



Miguel I. Flores
Director

Water Quality Protection Division

cc: Mark Derischweiler, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Derek Smithee, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Enclosure