



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-134

January 5, 2004

RECEIVED
JAN 12 2004

Toni Hardesty, Administrator
State Water Quality Programs
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706-1255

Re: Approval of Total Maximum Daily Loads for Mid-Snake River/Succor Creek, Idaho

Dear Ms. ^{Toni}Hardesty:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the below listed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Mid Snake River/Succor Creek basin (Hydrologic Unit Code 17050103). The TMDLs were submitted by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for EPA's approval in the document, *Mid Snake River/Succor Creek Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load*, dated April 2003 via cover letter dated June 10, 2003. A subsequent letter dated December 8, 2003 requested approval of eight of the TMDLs submitted in June pending further information regarding the remaining TMDLs. This approval applies to the following eight explicit TMDLs for six different waterbodies:

Waterbody	Boundary	TMDL Parameter
Snake River	Swan Falls to Oregon Line	Nutrients
Castle Creek	T5S, R1E, S28 to Snake River	Sediment
Jump Creek	Mule Creek to Snake River	Sediment
Sinker Creek	Diamond Creek to Snake River	Sediment, Temperature
Succor Creek	Headwaters to Oregon Line	Sediment
Succor Creek	Oregon Line to Snake River	Sediment, Bacteria

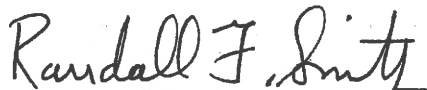
Based on our review and evaluation of the TMDLs, we found that they meet the regulatory and statutory requirements for approval under the Clean Water Act. This approval includes all wasteload and load allocations assigned to sources on listed waters and their tributaries. Our analysis indicates that these allocations have been established at levels that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the State water quality criteria addressed by the TMDLs in the listed waterbodies within the Mid Snake River and Succor Creek basin. Therefore, the State need not include any of these waterbodies on the next 303(d) list for the pollutants covered by these TMDLs.

We understand that the remaining TMDLs identified in the Mid Snake River/Succor Creek SBA and June 10 letter will be submitted when additional monitoring and modeling information is obtained and pending EPA action on a Natural Background standard for temperature is complete. We look forward to the submittal of these TMDLs in the near future.

We appreciated the opportunity to work with your staff throughout the development of these TMDLs. In particular, Bryan Horsburgh and Leslie Freeman have performed excellent technical analysis and done notable work with the stakeholders in development of these TMDLs. We look forward to our continued work with your staff during the implementation of these TMDLs and the water quality improvements which will be realized in the Mid Snake River and Succor Creek basin as a result.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under Section 303(e) of the CWA. Congratulations on your fine work. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1261 or Mark Filippini, at (206) 553-6327.

Sincerely,



Randall F. Smith
Director
Office of Water

cc: Marti Bridges, Idaho DEQ
Bryan Horsborough, Idaho DEQ