



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

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DEC 11 2007

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Reply To
Attn of: OWW-134

Barry Burnell, Administrator
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706-1255

Department of Environmental Quality
State Water Quality Division

Re: Approval of the Succor Creek and Castle Creek Watersheds, Idaho Temperature TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

Following our review and evaluation of the Succor Creek and Castle Creek Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the ten TMDLs for the water quality limited segments listed in the enclosed table. These TMDLs were submitted to EPA by IDEQ via cover letter dated August 30, 2007. Subsequent modifications were made to the TMDL document with a revised November 2007 version, received by EPA on December 3, 2007. This TMDL is an addendum to the Mid Snake/Succor Creek Subbasin Assessment and TMDL dated April 2003, which was approved by EPA on January 5, 2004. The waters addressed in this addendum were not included in the 2003 TMDL pending further data and analysis.

This approval includes all load allocations assigned to sources on listed waters and their tributaries since all these allocations are required to attain applicable water quality criteria in the listed waters. Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at levels that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality criteria in the waterbodies addressed by these TMDLs.

This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for the proposed de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17050103 from the Idaho 2002 §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

This submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs which are contained in the April 2003 Mid Snake/Succor Creek Subbasin Assessment and TMDL. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. EPA currently has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, EPA is not taking action on these strategies. Implementation is the critical next step to realize improvements in water quality, and we encourage IDEQ to continue their work with responsible parties on implementation of these strategies.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the CWA. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-7151, or you may call Mark Filippini of my staff at 206-553-6327.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Gearheard", written in a cursive style.

Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

Enclosure: Table of Approved TMDLs

cc: Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
Craig Shepard, IDEQ, Water Quality Manager, Boise Regional Office
Julia Archabal, IDEQ, Boise Regional Office
Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice

**Table of Approved TMDLs
Succor Creek and Castle Creek Watersheds, Idaho**

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Succor Creek – Mainstem from source to Granite Creek and all tributaries of Succor Creek to ID/OR boarder	ID17050103SW003_02	Temperature
Succor Creek - Mainstem from Granite Creek to ID/OR boarder	ID17050103SW003_03	Temperature
Castle Creek - Mainstem from unnamed tributary from Lower Birch Spring to Catherine Creek	ID17050103SW014_04	Temperature
Castle Creek - Mainstem from NF Castle Creek to unnamed tributary from Lower Birch Spring	ID17050103SW014_04a	Temperature
Castle Creek – Mainstem from Catherine Creek to mouth	ID17050103SW014_05	Temperature
NF Castle Creek and Alder Creek – 1 st and 2 nd order rangeland tributaries in Castle Creek watershed	ID17050103SW014_02	Temperature
NF Castle Creek and Alder Creek – 1 st and 2 nd order forested tributaries in Castle Creek watershed	ID17050103SW014_02a	Temperature
NF Castle Creek and Alder Creek – All 3 rd order tributaries to mainstem Castle Creek	ID17050103SW014_03	Temperature
SF Castle Creek, Juniper Creek, Clover Creek – Mainstem from HW to Clover Creek & all mainstem SF Castle Creek tributaries, HW to mouth	ID17050103SW020_02	Temperature
SF Castle Creek, Juniper Creek, Clover Creek – Mainstem SF Castle Creek from Clover Creek to mouth	ID17050103SW020_03	Temperature

December 2007