



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
STATE WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

Reply To
Attn Of: OWW-134

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

RE: Approval of the Upper Hangman Creek Assessment and TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the temperature, bacteria and sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), as listed in the table below, for the Upper Hangman Creek Subbasin, as submitted on June 7, 2007. This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17010306 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.

Summary Table of Approved TMDLs

Table with 5 columns: Water Body Segment/AU #, Pollutant, TMDLs Completed, Recommended Changes to Integrated Report, Justification. Rows list various water body segments and pollutants like Temperature, Sediment, and Bacteria.

EPA appreciates the cooperation and hard work of Tyson Clyne and the Coeur d' Alene Regional Office staff on this TMDL, especially the coordination prior to the public comment period and the sharing of a pre-public comment draft with EPA staff. We support this sort of early involvement and believe it results in a better understanding of the approaches used to develop the TMDL and enables meaningful discussions to occur between IDEQ and EPA staff that can later expedite EPA's review of the final document.

The June 7, 2007, submittal also includes the Implementation Strategies for the TMDLs. The strategies were developed and submitted 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) and therefore, EPA is not taking action on them. However, we believe implementation is the critical next step for realizing improvements in water quality called for in the TMDL and encourage IDEQ to continue their work with Responsible Parties on implementation.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-7151, or you may call Bill Stewart of my staff at (208)378-5753.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Water & Watershed

cc: Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
Bob Steed, IDEQ, Coeur d' Alene Regional Office Water Quality Manager
Tyson Clyne, IDEQ, Coeur d' Alene Regional Office