



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
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Seattle, WA 98101-3140

JAN 15 2016

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

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

Re: Revised Approval of the Little Lost River Subbasin TMDL, 2015 Temperature Addendum (HUC ID 17040217)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

On December 30, 2015, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received the *Little Lost River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load, 2015 Temperature Addendum*. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) submitted this TMDL document, along with a cover letter, dated December 14, 2015, for review under Section 303(d)(2) of the Clean Water Act. On January 14, 2016, EPA sent an approval letter on 24 temperature TMDLs for this subbasin; however, the tables provided in that letter were incorrect. The revised approval letter reflects the correct EPA approved TMDLs for the waters contained in the tables below.

EPA-Approved Temperature TMDLs from Idaho's 2012 List of Impaired Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #
Little Lost River	ID17040217SK001_05 ID17040217SK002_05 ID17040217SK007_02 ID17040217SK007_04 ID17040217SK009_02 ID17040217SK010_04
Big Springs Creek	ID17040217SK003_02 ID17040217SK003_03 ID17040217SK003_04
Sawmill Creek	ID17040217SK012_04 ID17040217SK014_02 ID17040217SK014_04
Squaw Creek	ID17040217SK015_02
Timber Creek	ID17040217SK018_03
Moffett Creek	ID17040217SK019_02a
Summit Creek	ID17040217SK019_03
Dry Creek and tributaries	ID17040217SK020_03 ID17040217SK021_02 ID17040217SK021_03
Deer Creek	ID17040217SK025_02
Wet Creek	ID17040217SK022_03 ID17040217SK024_03

The IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards for temperature but had not previously been included on Idaho's List. These TMDLs and waterbodies are identified in Table 2 below. EPA understands that these waters would have been included on the List had Idaho been aware of the impairment at the time the List was completed.

Table 2: EPA-Approved Temperature TMDLs on Unlisted but Impaired Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #
Little Lost River	ID17040217SK009_04
Wet Creek	ID17040217SK024_02

Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore the IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutants covered 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 7040217 from the Idaho §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.

Your submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. As you know, the EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, the 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.

We would also like to recognize Troy Saffle and his staff for their efforts in bringing these TMDLs to completion.

By the 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 comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1855, or you may call Jayne Carlin of my staff at (206) 553-8512.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho
Mr. Mark Shumar, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. Troy Saffle, Water Quality Manager, Idaho Falls Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice