



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

01 MAR 2004

Reply To  
Attn Of: OW-134

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

Re: Approval of Total Dissolved Gas, DDT, DDE, DDD and Dieldrin TMDLs for the  
Snake River - Hells Canyon Reach

*Toni*  
Dear ~~Ms.~~ Hardesty:

Following our review and evaluation of the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) developed jointly by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and submitted by IDEQ for the Snake River Hells Canyon Reach (HUC numbers 17050201, 17060101, 17050115, 17050103), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 is pleased to approve the total dissolved gas (TDG), DDT, DDD, DDE and dieldrin TMDLs established for waters and sources within Idaho. These TMDLs were submitted on July 15, 2003 and received by EPA on July 23, 2003. In a separate action, EPA will also be approving the temperature, TDG and pesticide TMDLs established by ODEQ for the Oregon portion of this reach of the Snake River. EPA plans to take action on the other TMDLs submitted in this TMDL document in the near future.

This action approves four TMDLs (one each for DDT, DDD, DDE and Dieldrin) for segments listed for pesticides on Idaho's 1998 303(d) List. In addition, it approves 19 TMDLs for segments currently not listed on the 303(d) List but which were determined during the development of the TMDL not to meet applicable water quality criteria. These TMDLs include three TMDLs for total dissolved gas and four TMDLs each for DDT, DDD, DDE and dieldrin. EPA understands that these latter waterbody segments would have been included on the State's 303(d) lists had the State been aware, at the time the lists were compiled, that these segments were impaired. The information contained in this TMDL demonstrates that these non-listed waters are in fact water quality limited segments in need of a TMDL.

The specific segments for which TMDLs are being approved for each pollutant are identified in the following table.

<b>Snake River Waterbody Segment</b>	<b>Listings Addressed</b>	<b>Unlisted Pollutants Addressed</b>
<b>Oregon Border To Boise River</b> (Segment extends from RM 451.3 to RM 396.4. The TMDL addresses the portion from RM 409 to RM 396.4.)		Pesticides (DDT, DDD, DDE and Dieldrin)
<b>Boise River to Weiser River</b> (RM 396.4 to RM 351.6)		Pesticides (DDT, DDD, DDE and Dieldrin)
<b>Weiser River to Scott Creek</b> (RM 351.6 to RM 347)		Pesticides (DDT, DDD, DDE and Dieldrin)
<b>Scott Creek to Brownlee Dam</b> (RM 347 to RM 285)		Pesticides (DDT, DDD, DDE and Dieldrin)
<b>Brownlee Dam to Oxbow Dam</b> (RM 285 to RM 272.5)	Pesticides (DDT, DDD, DDE and Dieldrin)	TDG
<b>Oxbow Dam to Hells Canyon Dam</b> (RM 272.5 to RM 247)		TDG
<b>Hells Canyon Dam to Salmon River</b> (RM 247 - RM 188)		TDG

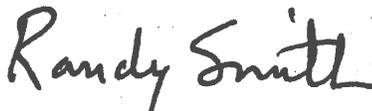
The July 17, 2003, submittal also included a Water Quality Management and Implementation Plan for the Snake River - Hells Canyon Reach. EPA currently has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation plans under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and therefore EPA is not taking action on these Implementation Plans. However, we believe implementation is the critical next step for realizing improvements in water quality called for in the TMDL and look forward to seeing the more detailed implementation plan and the implementation of measures outlined in the plan.

EPA has concluded consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Fisheries (NOAA - Fisheries) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Through this consultation, EPA found that this approval action would have no effect on listed species or their critical habitat. Both NOAA - Fisheries and FWS have agreed with this determination.

EPA has appreciated the opportunity to work closely with your staff throughout the development of these TMDLs. Tonya Dombrowski has done an exceptional job in compiling information on this large reach and presenting it in a well organized manner. We acknowledge the extra time and effort that was required to jointly develop these TMDLs with ODEQ and thank you for committing the extra time and resources to do so. We believe that this joint document will be of much greater use to the stakeholders and future implementation measures than two separate documents would have been.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under Section 303(e) of the CWA. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1261, or Don Martin of my staff at (206) 665-0458.

Sincerely,



Randall F. Smith  
Director  
Office of Water

cc: Craig Shepard, IDEQ  
Marti Bridges, IDEQ  
Greg Aldrich, ODEQ  
Dick Nichols, ODEQ  
Tonya Dombrowski

**RECEIVED**

MAR 03 2004

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
STATE WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS