



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Mr. Matthew Rowe, Assistant Director  
Water and Science Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 540  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

MAR 13 2018

Dear Mr. Rowe:

Thank you for sending the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region III (EPA) the revised fecal coliform total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Restricted Shellfish Harvesting Area in the Lower Wicomico River Basin (TMDL approved by EPA on June 18, 2008). The revised report was submitted by Maryland Department of the Environment to EPA on February 16, 2018 and received on February 20, 2018. The report includes an addendum to extend the shellfish harvesting area covered by the TMDL to include a subsequently listed impaired segment directly downstream of the original TMDL segment.

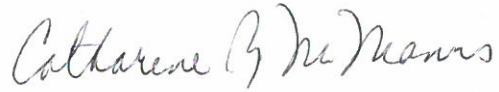
In 2010, subsequent to the approval of the Lower Wicomico River Basin TMDL by EPA, a shellfish harvesting area directly downstream of the segment addressed in the 2008 TMDL was listed as impaired on the Integrated Report (MD-WICMH-WICOMICO\_RIVER\_2) ("2010 listed segment"). While the 2008 TMDL did not expressly address the 2010 listed segment, that segment was covered by the 2008 TMDL modeling; *i.e.*, the watershed loads and the water quality and hydrodynamics of the 2010 listed segment were explicitly simulated. Based on the spatial compatibility of the 2010 listed segment within the 2008 TMDL framework, the reductions needed to meet the 2008 TMDL endpoints will result in a similar water quality response in the 2010 listed segment. In addition, because fecal coliform concentrations are consistently lower in the 2010 listed segment as compared to the segment originally covered in the 2008 TMDL, the 2010 listed segment should achieve applicable water quality standards for fecal coliform in response to implementation of the 2008 TMDL. For these reasons, EPA approves the extension of the shellfish harvesting area covered by the TMDL to include the 2010 listed segment, MD-WICMH-WICOMICO\_RIVER\_2.

The TMDL revisions were available for public comment from January 10, 2018 to February 8, 2018 and EPA provided a set of comments that were adequately addressed. The revisions are consistent with EPA regulations. EPA will update its records to reflect the revisions. EPA recommends that MDE update its Continuous Planning Process (CPP) to reflect the revisions. Please note that the revisions now represent the "approved" wasteload allocations for the sources in the TMDLs for purposes of 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d)(1)(vii)(B).



If you have any questions or comments concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Additionally, your staff may contact Jillian Adair at 215-814-5713.

Sincerely,



Catharine McManus, Acting Director  
Water Protection Division

cc: Melissa Chatham, MDE-WSA

