



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

MAR 27 2018

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

Dear Mr. Rowe:

Thank you for your March 15, 2018 submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region III (EPA) the revised fecal coliform total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Lower Choptank River Mainstem (TMDL originally approved by EPA on November 15, 2006). The revised report includes an addendum that extends the TMDL to cover a subsequently (2010) listed shellfish harvesting area directly downstream of the original TMDL segment. The revision also includes loads from an additional facility not identified in the original TMDL and updates the wasteload allocation (WLA).

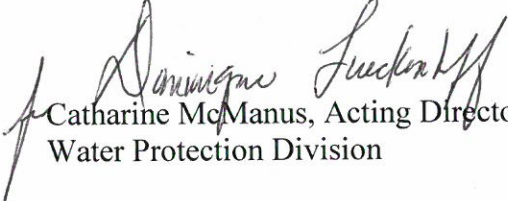
In 2010, subsequent to the approval of the Lower Choptank River Mainstem TMDL ("2006 TMDL") by EPA, a shellfish harvesting area directly downstream of the segment addressed in the 2006 TMDL was listed as impaired on the Integrated Report (MD-CHOMH2 Lower_Choptank_River_Mainstem-2) ("2010 listed segment"). While the 2006 TMDL did not expressly address the 2010 listed segment, that segment was covered by the 2006 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 2006 TMDL framework, the reductions needed to meet the 2006 TMDL endpoints are predicted to result in a similar water quality response in the 2010 listed segment, and the 2010 listed segment is expected to achieve applicable water quality standards for fecal coliform upon implementation of the 2006 TMDL. For these reasons, EPA approves the revision of the 2006 TMDL to include the 2010 listed segment, MD-CHOMH2-Lower_Choptank_River_Mainstem-2.

In addition, the revised TMDL includes loads from the Preston Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) (MD0020621), which were not included in the original TMDL. Additionally, and as a result of the permit renewal process, the loads from Easton WWTP (MD0020273) have been revised to accommodate a lower fecal coliform concentration limit and a greater design flow. The revisions shift some of the fecal coliform allocation from the Load Allocation (LA) to the WLA. This reallocation of loads results in an overall decrease in the LA of two percent; however, the overall TMDL remains unchanged.



The TMDL revisions were available for public comment from January 19, 2018 to February 20, 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