

**Comment Response Document  
Regarding the Water Quality Analysis of Cyanide in Wills Creek, Allegany and Garrett  
Counties, Maryland**

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has conducted a public review of the proposed Water Quality Analysis (WQA) of Cyanide in Wills Creek. The public comment period was open from June 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006. MDE received one sets of written comments.

Below is a list of commentors, their affiliation, the date comments were submitted, and the numbered references to the comments submitted. In the pages that follow, comments are summarized and listed with MDE’s response.

**List of Commentors**

Author	Affiliation	Date	Comment Number
Jennifer Sincock	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3	June 9, 2006	1 through 4

**Comments and Responses**

1. The commentor references Figure 1, page 4. The electronic file shows the location of Wills Creek and the Upper Potomac River in light green which is not visible when printed in black and white. Please make sure that all map features are visible for printing in black and white.

**Response:** The watershed fill color on the location maps has been changed to a dark brown which is visible in black and white.

2. The commentor references Section 3.1, page 7, first paragraph. MDE conducted a data solicitation for metals and considered all readily available data from the past five years. Did MDE receive any data during this solicitation from outside sources? Table 3 only shows data from 2004 to 2005. Also, conducted is misspelled.

**Response:** No additional data was received from outside sources. The only available data is from MDEs North Branch Potomac River Chemical Contaminant Survey.

3. The commentor references Section 3.2, page 9. The Interagency Review Draft had a paragraph discussing statistical analysis performed on the toxicity test data to determine if control and field sediment samples were statistically different. This paragraph was deleted in the Public Notice Draft. Please explain why this paragraph was deleted. Also, please provide EPA with all data, statistical analyses, or other information used to included in the Interagency Review Draft.

**Response:** Consistent with the level of technical detail reported in other comparable WQAs, the Department determined that the referenced paragraph was overly technical and

unnecessary to explain its conclusions. Accordingly, the paragraph was removed. None of the field sediment results for survival and growth were significantly different than the control sediment samples. The Department, therefore, concluded that no toxicity exists. An analysis of significant differences was conducted using statistical software packages. The sediment toxicity report written by Daniel J. Fisher, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, University of Maryland does not contain the statistical software output and only states which values are significantly different. However, the report has been added as an appendix to the document.

4. The commentor states that Figure 1 is referenced as showing the station locations. However, the locations of samples 01, 09, 20, 31, 33 and 37 were not included. Please include these sample stations in a figure. There are also Wills Creek samples listed in the table.

**Response:** A table formatting error led to the display of sediment toxicity data for stations 1, 9, 20, and 31, 33, and 37. These stations are located outside of the Wills Creek watershed. This data should not have been displayed. The document has been corrected.