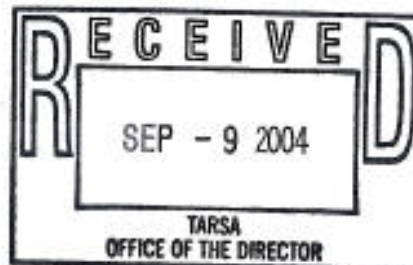




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

SEP 02 2004

Richard Eskin, Deputy Director  
Technical & Regulatory Services Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 540  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718



Dear Mr. Eskin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III has reviewed the Draft Final report entitled, "Water Quality Analysis of Mercury for Broadford Lake in Garrett County, Maryland," submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final Agency review on January 8, 2004.

EPA concurs with MDE's determination that the original listing of Broadford Lake was in error as a result of comparing the arithmetic mean of methylmercury fish tissue concentration of 263 ug/kg instead of the geometric mean methylmercury fish tissue concentration of 228 ug/kg to the maximum threshold of 235 ug/kg; as established in the listing methodology for methylmercury. Broadford Lake was first listed by Maryland on its 1998 303(d) list of water quality-limited segments as impaired by nutrients, and a TMDL of phosphorous was completed and approved by EPA in 1999. Therefore, MDE has now addressed all impairments identified for Broadford Lake. If in the future evidence suggests that mercury from Broadford Lake watershed are contributing to water quality problems, then action will have to be taken.

Feel free to contact me at (215)814-5730 or Mr. Thomas Henry at (215)814-5452, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*FKP*  
Robert Koroncai  
Office of Watersheds  
Water Protection Division

cc: Melissa Chatham, MDE

