



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

WW-16J

APR 03 2008

Michael J. Sandusky, Director
Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

Re: Revisions to Minnesota Mercury Statewide Total Maximum Daily Load


Dear Mr. Sandusky:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has conducted a complete review of the Revisions to the Minnesota Statewide Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (Revised TMDL) received by U.S. EPA on February 11, 2008. The Revised TMDL submitted for review and approval includes changes to the lake and river reach impairments and NPDES permits addressed by the TMDLs established in the original Minnesota Statewide Mercury TMDL, approved by U.S. EPA on March 27, 2007. Based on this review, U.S. EPA has determined that no revisions are being made to the original TMDLs except to Appendices A and B of the original TMDL submittal. Except for Appendices A and B of the original TMDL, U.S. EPA's March 2007 decision approving all elements of the original TMDL is not affected by this decision on the Revised TMDL. This decision solely addresses revisions to Appendices A and B of the original Minnesota Statewide Mercury TMDL.

Based on this review, U.S. EPA has determined that the revisions to Appendices A and B meet the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and U.S. EPA's implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 130. Therefore, by this letter U.S. EPA hereby approves the revisions to Appendices A and B of the original Minnesota Statewide Mercury TMDL. This approval addresses 998 lake and river reach mercury impairments within the State of Minnesota, including 501 new assessment units not addressed in the original TMDL. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and the TMDLs' compliance with these requirements, are described in the enclosed decision document.

We appreciate your hard work in this area and the submittal of the TMDLs as required. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Pierard, Chief of the Watersheds and Wetlands Branch, at 312-886-4448.

Sincerely yours,


for Tinka G. Hyde
Acting Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Howard Markus, MPCA
Jeff Risberg, MPCA