



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION 10
 1200 Sixth Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98101

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 OCT 03 2007
 Department of Environmental Quality
 State Water Quality Programs

Reply To
 Attn Of: OWW-134

OCT - 1 2007

Barry Burnell, Administrator
 Water Quality Division
 Department of Environmental Quality
 1410 North Hilton
 Boise, ID 83706-1255

RE: Approval of the South Fork Palouse River Assessment and TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the temperature, bacteria, nutrient and sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), as listed on the table below, for the South Fork Palouse River Subbasin, as submitted on April 11, 2007. This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed within Hydrologic Unit Code 17060108 from the Idaho 2002 §303(d) list.

Summary Table of Approved TMDLs

Water Body Segment/AU #	Pollutant	TMDLs Completed	Recommended Changes to Integrated Report	Justification
South Fork Palouse River 17060108C1003_02 and _03	<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria, Nutrients, Sediment and Temperature	Yes	Move to section 4a	TMDL completed
South Fork Palouse River 17060108C1002_03	<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria, Nutrients, Sediment and Temperature	Yes	Move to section 4a	TMDL completed

EPA appreciates the cooperation and hard work of John Cardwell and the Lewiston Regional Office staff on this TMDL, especially the coordination prior to the public comment period and the sharing of a pre-public comment draft with EPA staff. We support this sort of early involvement and believe it results in a better understanding of the approaches used to develop the TMDL and enables meaningful discussions to occur between IDEQ and EPA staff that can later expedite EPA's review of the final document.

The April 11, 2007, submittal also includes the Implementation Strategies for the TMDLs. The strategies were developed and submitted pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. EPA currently has no duty to approve or disapprove Implementation Strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and therefore, EPA is not taking action on them. However, we believe implementation is the critical next step for realizing improvements in water quality called for in the TMDL and encourage IDEQ to continue their work with Responsible Parties on implementation.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any comments or questions please feel free to call me at (206)553-7151, or you may call Bill Stewart of my staff at (208)378-5753.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Water & Watershed

cc: Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
John Cardwell, IDEQ, Lewiston Regional Office Water Quality Manager