



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-134

OCT 8 2002

David Mabe, Administrator
Water Quality Program
Dept. of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the nearshore Lake Pend Oreille Nutrient TMDL (HUC # 17010214).

Dear ~~Mr. Mabe:~~ *David:*

Following our review and evaluation of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) developed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) for the nearshore Lake Pend Oreille Watershed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 is pleased to approve one nutrient TMDL for the nearshore waters of Lake Pend Oreille.

Waterbody Name	HUC Number	Pollutant
Nearshore Lake Pend Oreille	17010214	Nutrients

This nutrient TMDL applies to the summer months (June-September) and is for phosphorus impairment in the nearshore waters of Pend Oreille Lake. Only those waters were determined to be impaired and needing a TMDL.

This approval applies to the document titled "Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Nutrients for the Nearshore Waters of Pend Oreille Lake, Idaho, as submitted to EPA on July 30, 2002, and received August 2, 2002.

This approval includes the load allocations assigned to the sources of impairment to the nearshore waters of Pend Oreille Lake. While Pend Oreille Lake is listed in its entirety, only the nearshore waters are considered impaired and addressed by this TMDL. Point sources such as the Sandpoint wastewater treatment plant and the Kootenai-Ponderay wastewater treatment plant are not addressed in this TMDL because they do not discharge to the waters covered by this TMDL. Nonetheless, existing NPDES permits for both wastewater treatment plants include monitoring for nutrients in effluent as well as the receiving waters. In future, this TMDL may need to be revised if this data suggests impacts to nearshore areas.

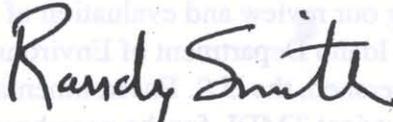
Our analysis indicates that the allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the criteria addressed by the TMDL in all waters identified in the nearshore waters of Lake Pend Oreille. Therefore, the state need not include this segment of the Lake Pend Oreille waterbody on the next 303(d) List for nutrients.

This TMDL afforded a unique opportunity for EPA to work closely with the Tri-State Water Quality Council, IDEQ and Tetra Tech, Inc. to develop this TMDL. We especially commend Ruth Watkins for contributing her exceptional facilitation and management skills to assure the timeliness and success of this TMDL. In addition, Dave Stasney from your office was very helpful in assisting with technical expertise and ground truthing, making this a very defensible document.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and the Tri-State Water Quality Council. It is evident by the high quality work and exceptional outreach that has occurred in this watershed that improvements to water quality will continue.

By EPA's approval, this TMDL is incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under Section 303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1261 or Martha Turvey at (206) 553-1354.

Sincerely,



Randall F. Smith
Director
Office of Water

Enclosure	HUC Number	Watershed Name
	1501014	Nearshore Lake Pend Oreille

- cc: Steve Allred, IDEQ Administrator
- Michael McIntyre, IDEQ, Surface Water Program Manager
- Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
- Gwen Fransen, IDEQ CDA Regional Administrator
- Ruth Watkins, Tri-State Water Quality Council

This approval includes the load allocation assigned to the source of impairment in the nearshore waters of Pend Oreille Lake. While Pend Oreille Lake is listed in its entirety, only the nearshore waters are considered impaired and addressed by this TMDL. Point sources such as the Standpoint wastewater treatment plant and the Kootenai-Pend Oreille wastewater treatment plant are not addressed in this TMDL because they do not discharge to the waters covered by this TMDL. Nonpoint sources existing NPDES permits for both wastewater treatment plants include monitoring for nutrients in effluent as well as the receiving water. In future, this TMDL may need to be revised if this data suggests impacts to nearshore areas.

Our analysis indicates that the allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the criteria addressed by the TMDL in all waters identified in the nearshore waters of Lake Pend Oreille. Therefore, the state need not include a segment of the Lake Pend Oreille watershed on the next 303(d) list for nutrients.