



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

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

APR 25 2012

Re: Approval of the Goose Creek Subbasin Temperature Addendum TMDLs (HUC: ID17040211SK008_02, ID17040211SK007_02 & 03)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Goose Creek Subbasin Temperature Addendum Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 24, 2012. IDEQ resubmitted the Goose Creek TMDL on March 5, 2012 with corrections to the listings. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve three TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the tables below. Three of these waters were included in Idaho's 2010 303(d) list (List) of impaired waters, as identified in Table 1.

Table 1: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Goose Creek	ID17040211SK008_02	Temperature
Trout Creek	ID17040211SK007_02	Temperature
Trout Creek	ID17040211SK007_03	Temperature

Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore the IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutant(s) covered by these TMDLs.

This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for the proposed de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code ID17040211SK007_02 for sediment and, ID17040211SK007_03 for biota/habitat from the Idaho §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

This submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. The EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA);

therefore, the EPA is not taking action on these strategies. Implementation is the critical next step to realize improvements in water quality, and we encourage IDEQ to continue their work with responsible parties on implementation of these strategies.

We would like to recognize the cooperation and thoroughness of Katie Shewmaker in bringing these TMDLs to completion.

By the EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the CWA. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-4198, or you may call Martha Turvey of my staff at 206-553-1354.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. Sonny Budihar, Water Quality Manager, Twin Falls, Regional Office, IDEQ
Ms. Katie Shewmaker, Twin Falls Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice