



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

DEC 22 2015

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

Mr. Barry Burnell, Administrator
State Water Quality Program
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

RE: Approval of Lower Boise River TMDL 2015 Total Phosphorus Addendum (Hydrologic Unit Code 17050114)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to approve the two total phosphorus TMDLs listed in the table below for the Lower Boise River Subbasin. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality submitted the Lower Boise River TMDL 2015 Addendum for EPA's approval on August 28, 2015.

EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

<i>Waterbody Name</i>	<i>Assessment Unit #</i>	<i>Pollutant</i>
Boise River-Indian Creek to Mouth	ID17050114SW001_06	Total Phosphorus
Boise River-Middleton to Indian Creek	ID17050114SW005_06b	Total Phosphorus

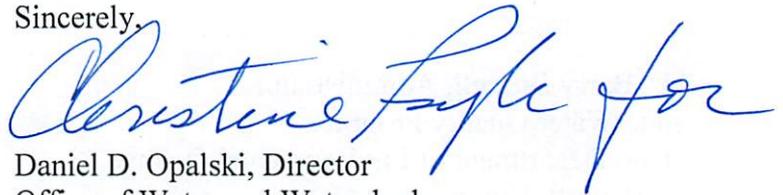
This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17050114 from the Idaho §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

The EPA appreciates the cooperation and work of the IDEQ Boise Regional Office 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 Idaho and the EPA staff that can later expedite the EPA's review of the final document. In particular, the EPA would like to recognize the effort put forth to complete this document by Troy Smith, Darcy Sharp and Lance Holloway of your staff.

The August 28, 2015, submittal also includes the Implementation Strategies for the TMDLs. The strategies were developed and submitted pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. The EPA currently has no duty to approve or disapprove Implementation Strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and therefore, the 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)553-1855, or you may call Bill Stewart of my staff at (208) 378-5753.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

- cc: John Tippetts, IDEQ Director, by email
Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General, by email
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager, by email
Lance Holloway, IDEQ, Boise Regional Office, by email
Troy Smith, IDEQ, Boise Regional Office, by email
Darcy Sharp, IDEQ, Boise, by email