



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG 26 2013

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
WW-16J

Marcia Willhite, Chief
Bureau of Water
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276


Dear Ms. Willhite:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has conducted a complete review of the final Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Des Plaines River/Higgins Creek Watershed, including supporting documentation and follow up information. The Des Plaines River/Higgins Creek Watershed is located in northeastern Illinois. The fecal coliform, total phosphorus, ammonia, carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand and chloride TMDLs submitted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency address the impaired designated Aquatic Life Use, Aesthetic Quality Use, and Primary Contact Recreation Use.

These TMDLs meet the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 130. Therefore, EPA hereby approves Illinois's 24 TMDLs for fecal coliform, total phosphorus, ammonia, carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand and chloride in the Des Plaines River/Higgins Creek Watershed. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and EPA's review of Illinois's compliance with each requirement, are described in the enclosed decision document.

We wish to acknowledge Illinois's effort in submitting these TMDLs and look forward to future TMDL submissions by the State of Illinois. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Peter Swenson, Chief of the Watersheds and Wetlands Branch at 312-886-0236.

Sincerely,


Tinka G. Hyde
Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Abel Haile, IEPA
Jennifer Clarke, IEPA