

## Illinois River Project Update Conference Call

February 11, 2011

10:30 -11:30 CST

**Call in #:** 866-299-3188 **Code:** 2146657396

### **A. Agenda:**

1. Introduction
2. Illinois Scenic River and Lake Tenkiller Water Quality Standards Overview (OWRB)
3. Review comments on the draft Model Selection Technical Memorandum (EPA)
4. Updates on tasks related to the IRW model and TMDL development project (AQUA TERRA)
5. Adjourn

### **B. List of Attendees:**

**(Note: We did not get all the names of people who attended the call. Some names might be left out unintentionally. Please let us know if we missed any.)**

AQUA TERRA - Elizabeth Wolfram, John Imhoff,  
Tony Donigian  
ANRC - Edward Swaim, Earl Smith  
OWRB – Phil Moershel, Bill Cauthron, Jason  
Childress, Lynda Williamson  
OCC - Greg Kloxin, Stacey Day  
ODEQ - Mark Derischweiler, Shellie Chard-McClary,  
Andrew Fang  
EPA - Quang Nguyen, Randall Rush, Melinda McCoy  
ODAFF - Quang Pham  
ADEQ - John Bailey  
OAG- Clayton Eubanks  
OSE - Amanda Stork

### **C. Notes**

OWRB (Phil Moershel) provided background information regarding the development, State adoption, and EPA approval of Oklahoma's total phosphorus criterion for the Scenic Rivers and its chlorophyll a criterion for sensitive water supplies. OWRB also provided an overview of its current effort to re-evaluate the total phosphorus criterion pursuant to the Statement of Joint Principles and Actions.

EPA walked through a summary of the comments it received on the Model Selection Technical Memorandum. Major summary points of this discussion follow below.

EPA noted that it will provide written responses to all the comments when the TMDL is formally proposed; until then all comments will be responded to verbally during the monthly conference calls. As documents are finalized, States and Tribes will be notified.

EPA's goal is to keep this study as transparent as possible. EPA intends to document the model setup efforts, the data used in model setup and calibration/validation results. In addition, EPA will be presenting these efforts at the quarterly Stakeholder meetings and its monthly conference calls.

OWRB clarified that Lake Tenkiller is currently on Oklahoma's 2008 §303(d) list for Chlorophyll a and Total Phosphorus. The total phosphorus listing is based upon implementation of Oklahoma's narrative criterion. The Clean Lakes Study of Lake Tenkiller was considered a nutrient impairment study for purposes of the "nutrient limited watershed" analysis. Lake Tenkiller is also on Oklahoma's 2010 §303(d) list for Chlorophyll a and Total Phosphorus (EPA is still currently reviewing Oklahoma's 2010 §303(d) list).

It was also clarified that Oklahoma's 0.037 mg/l Total Phosphorus criterion and Chlorophyll a criteria were developed via separate rulemaking efforts, and there is no relationship between the two criteria.

EPA noted that Lake Tenkiller has been included in this modeling project. EPA believes that this modeling study, along with the collaborative effort of State partners and stakeholders, will help EPA and the States to better understand and quantify the relationships between the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller impairments, and to devise effective nutrient reduction strategies to restore water quality for entire IR watershed.

A question was raised during the call about whether the model should rely on the TP criterion as expressed in Oklahoma's water quality standards or as expressed in Oklahoma's Use Support Assessment Protocols.

\*\*EPA believes that the model (validation, projections, etc.) should rely on the TP criterion as expressed in Oklahoma's water quality standards since this is the EPA-approved WQS in effect for CWA purposes.\*\*

EPA also noted that the Watershed Management Plans are still being reviewed in detail at this time. They provide a wealth of information on historical conditions and studies, current data and reports, and planned management efforts for implementation throughout the watershed. EPA's intent is to use the information provided to develop, and ensure, an accurate model of the watershed (on both sides of the State border), and then evaluate the extent to which planned management practices can be represented as part of 'model scenarios' to assess the potential impacts of these practices on future phosphorus load reductions.

For the last agenda item, AQUA TERRA provided an update. It is currently working on the simulation plan and modeling QAPP. AQUA TERRA anticipates having these documents developed by early to mid-March.