



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. David McKnight
Agricultural Retailers Association
1156 15th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

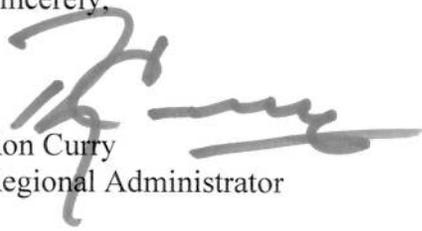
Dear Mr. McKnight:

Thank you for your August 9, 2013, letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suspend its ongoing efforts to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma. For your information, we received an earlier and similar request from the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson), and others. We are enclosing a copy of our responses to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and Tyson's request for your review.

As indicated in our response to them, the EPA believes that the current work is vital to the shared goal of improved water quality in the Illinois River and its upstream tributaries in northwest Arkansas. The EPA plans to continue its current modeling efforts in the Illinois River Basin to not only fulfill this shared goal, but to make certain that any future decisions originate from a technically sound basis. Given the time and resources required to achieve the current level of model development, the EPA believes completion of the modeling efforts and development of any TMDL(s) is likely to be a lengthy process. Therefore, the EPA believes it is important to continue moving forward with its ongoing modeling and TMDL work. In the event that the prospective stressor-response study is completed and yields an alternative EPA approved phosphorus criterion, the EPA will replace the current Scenic Rivers criterion (0.037 mg/l phosphorus) with the new value and reassess the results of modeled load reduction scenarios.

Thank you very much for sharing your concerns. If you have further questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Ms. Claudia Hosch, Associate Director for NPDES Permits and TMDLs, at (214) 665-7170.

Sincerely,


Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: see page 2

cc: The Honorable Mark Pryor
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
House of Representatives

Identical letters sent to:

Mr. Bob Stallman
President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Mr. Ford West
President, The Fertilizer Institute

Mr. Scott George
President, National Cattlemen's
Association

Mr. Earl Garber
President, National Association of Conservation
Districts

Mr. Michael J. Brown
President, National Chicken Council

Mr. Gary Niemeyer
Chairman, National Corn Growers Association

Mr. Randy Spronk
President, National Pork Producers Council

Mr. John Burkel
Chairman, National Turkey Federation

Mr. James Adams
Chairman, US Poultry & Egg Association

Mr. Charles Conner
President & CEO, National Council of Farmer
Cooperatives



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Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. Bob Stallman
President
American Farm Bureau Federation
600 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Stallman:

Thank you for your August 9, 2013, letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suspend its ongoing efforts to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma. For your information, we received an earlier and similar request from the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson), and others. We are enclosing a copy of our responses to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and Tyson's request for your review.

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Sincerely,


Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

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Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. Ford West
President
The Fertilizer Institute
425 Third Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

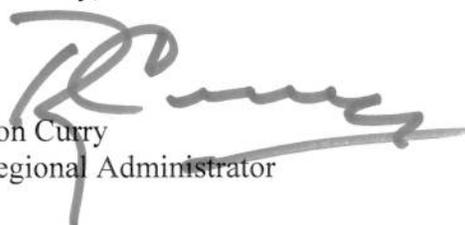
Dear Mr. West:

Thank you for your August 9, 2013, letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suspend its ongoing efforts to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma. For your information, we received an earlier and similar request from the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson), and others. We are enclosing a copy of our responses to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and Tyson's request for your review.

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Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

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Cooperatives



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Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. Earl Garber
President
National Association of Conservation Districts
509 Capitol Court, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4937

Dear Mr. Garber:

Thank you for your August 9, 2013, letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suspend its ongoing efforts to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma. For your information, we received an earlier and similar request from the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson), and others. We are enclosing a copy of our responses to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and Tyson's request for your review.

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President, National Chicken Council

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President, National Pork Producers Council

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Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. Scott George
President
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
9110 East Nichols Avenue
Centennial, Colorado 80112

Dear Mr. George:

Thank you for your August 9, 2013, letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suspend its ongoing efforts to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma. For your information, we received an earlier and similar request from the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson), and others. We are enclosing a copy of our responses to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and Tyson's request for your review.

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Sincerely,



Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

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Mr. Bob Stallman
President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Mr. Earl Garber
President, National Association of
Conservation Districts

Mr. Ford West
President, The Fertilizer Institute

Mr. Michael J. Brown
President, National Chicken Council

Mr. Gary Niemeyer
Chairman, National Corn Growers Association

Mr. Randy Spronk
President, National Pork Producers Council

Mr. John Burkel
Chairman, National Turkey Federation

Mr. James Adams
Chairman, US Poultry & Egg Association

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President & CEO, National Council of Farmer
Cooperatives



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Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. Michael J. Brown
President
National Chicken Council
1152 15th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005-2622

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your August 9, 2013, letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suspend its ongoing efforts to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma. For your information, we received an earlier and similar request from the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson), and others. We are enclosing a copy of our responses to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and Tyson's request for your review.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Curry".

Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: see page 2

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United States Senate

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United States Senate

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United States Senate

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Cooperatives



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DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. Gary Niemeyer
Chairman
National Corn Growers Association
20 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Niemeyer:

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Sincerely,


Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: see page 2

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United States Senate

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United States Senate

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United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
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Mr. Bob Stallman
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Mr. Scott George
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Association

Mr. Michael J. Brown
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Mr. Randy Spronk
President, National Pork Producers Council

Mr. John Burkel
Chairman, National Turkey Federation

Mr. James Adams
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President & CEO, National Council of Farmer
Cooperatives



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
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DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. Charles Conner
President and CEO
National Council of Farmers Cooperatives
50 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Conner:

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Regional Administrator

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

September 27, 2013

Mr. Randy Spronk
Chairman
National Pork Producers Council
122 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Spronk:

Thank you for your August 9, 2013, letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suspend its ongoing efforts to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma. For your information, we received an earlier and similar request from the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson), and others. We are enclosing a copy of our responses to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and Tyson's request for your review.

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September 27, 2013

Mr. John Burkel
Chairman
National Turkey Federation
1225 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

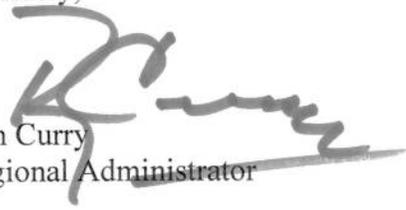
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September 27, 2013

Mr. James Adams
Chairman
US Poultry and Egg Association
1530 Cooledge Road
Tucker, Georgia 30084

Dear Mr. Adams:

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Enclosures

cc: see page 2

cc: The Honorable Mark Pryor
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
House of Representatives

Identical letters sent to:

Mr. David McKnight
Agricultural Retailers Association

Mr. Bob Stallman
President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Mr. Earl Garber
President, National Association of
Conservation Districts

Mr. Ford West
President, The Fertilizer Institute

Mr. Scott George
President, National Cattlemen's Beef
Association

Mr. Michael J. Brown
President, National Chicken Council

Mr. Gary Neimeyer
Chairman, National Corn Growers
Association

Mr. Randy Spronk
President, National Pork Producers Council

Mr. John Burkel
Chairman, National Turkey Federation

Mr. Charles Conner
President & CEO, National Council of Farmer
Cooperatives