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

JAN 22 2010

Chadwick Smith, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation
P. O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is developing a model for the Illinois River watershed. We expect this modeling effort may lead to the development of one or more Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Illinois River and its tributaries. We encourage active participation from the Cherokee Nation in the development of this TMDL. To ensure that the model will be as representative of the watershed as possible, we request your assistance in providing us all existing and readily available water quality data and/or studies relevant to the watershed.

In the past weeks, my staff has had discussions with your staff about the modeling project and upcoming meetings. EPA invites you and your staff to participate in a focus group meeting to discuss the following: 1) the objectives and scope of the project, 2) data needs, and 3) existing and ongoing studies in the watershed. The focus group meeting will be held on February 4, 2010, at 1:00 P.M. in Fort Smith, Arkansas at the Holiday Inn City Center located at 700 Rogers Avenue. We encourage active participation from the Cherokee Nation in the development of this TMDL. In addition, EPA also invites you and your staff to participate in an Illinois River watershed stakeholder meeting at 6:00 P.M. at the same location.

If you have any questions/comments, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-7101, or your staff may contact Claudia Hosch of my staff at (214) 665-7170.

Sincerely,

Miguel I. Flores
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

cc: Jeannine Hale, EPA-OEJTA

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