



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

NOV 22 2011

The Honorable Lioneld Jordan
Mayor of Fayetteville
113 West Mountain
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Dear Mayor Jordan:

Thank you for your letter dated October 12, 2011, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding water quality in the Illinois River Watershed. The EPA recognizes not only the many significant actions, particularly those related to phosphorous reductions and stormwater management, the City of Fayetteville has undertaken to improve and protect water quality in Northwest Arkansas but also the leadership role it has played and continues to play in improving water quality conditions throughout the watershed. Fayetteville's commitment, dedication and leadership in environmental stewardship are evident from the numerous actions you describe in your letter. I am keenly aware of the large level of investment in wastewater treatment technologies cities in Northwest Arkansas have made to reduce nutrient loads.

You referenced the state of Oklahoma's phosphorous standard in your letter. Currently, a Technical Advisory Group, in which Arkansas' Department of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources Commission participates, is reviewing the standard as agreed to in the *Statement of Joint Principles and Actions* signed by the states. The present and future quality of the Illinois River, its tributaries and the waterbodies into which it flows remain important shared priorities for Arkansas, Oklahoma and the EPA. It is for this reason that the EPA and the states have joined with the numerous stakeholders in the Illinois River watershed in modeling efforts to better understand the relationships between sources of phosphorus and other pollutants and water quality conditions in the watershed. Through this transparent, science-based effort, the EPA hopes to provide the science and tools necessary to assess potential phosphorus load reductions necessary to meet water quality goals in both states under various flow scenarios. Ultimately, it will be stakeholders in the watershed that will decide what actions will be necessary to achieve water quality goals.

In your letter, you requested that the EPA augment its current modeling project with sensitivity and uncertainty analyses to further support future reliance upon the model for decision making. I am pleased to share with you that the EPA is currently moving forward to include such analyses as a part of our project. We expect to commit the necessary funds for it in the near future.



If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Ms. Claudia Hosch of my staff at (214) 665-6464.

Sincerely yours,

Al Armendariz
Regional Administrator

Thank you for your letter dated October 12, 2011, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding water quality in the Illinois River Watershed. The EPA recognizes not only the many significant actions, particularly those related to phosphorus reduction, that you and your staff are undertaking, but also the leadership role it has played and continues to play in improving water quality conditions throughout the watershed. EPA's commitment, leadership and leadership in environmental stewardship are evident from the numerous actions you describe in your letter. I am pleased to see the high level of investment in wastewater treatment technologies that you and your staff are making to reduce nutrient loads.

You referenced the state of Oklahoma's phosphorus standard in your letter. Currently a Technical Advisory Group, in which Arkansas, Department of Environmental Quality and National Resources Conservation Department participate, is reviewing the standard as part of the revision of the Clean Water Act. The purpose and intent of the Illinois River, its tributaries and the watershed into which it flows remain important shared priorities for Arkansas, Oklahoma and the EPA. It is for this reason that the EPA and the state have joined with the numerous stakeholders in the Illinois River watershed to undertake efforts to better understand the relationships between sources of phosphorus and other pollutants and water quality conditions in the watershed. Through the ongoing, science-based effort, the EPA hopes to provide the science and data necessary to assess potential phosphorus load reductions necessary to meet water quality goals in both states under various flow scenarios. Ultimately, it will be incumbent in the watershed that will develop the actions that will be necessary to achieve water quality goals.

In your letter you requested that the EPA support its current modeling project with scientific and analytical analyses to further support future actions upon the model. In addition, I am pleased to share with you that the EPA is currently moving forward to include such analyses as a part of our project. We expect to submit the necessary funds for it in the near future.