



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

JAN 22 2010

Honorable George Wickliffe, Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0746

Dear Mr. Wickliffe:

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. 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 United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma in the development of this TMDL. In addition, EPA also invites you and your staff to participate in a 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miguel I. Flores".

Miguel I. Flores
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

cc: Jeannine Hale, EPA-OEJTA