

APPENDIX E:
Original Public Comment Letters



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

December 21, 2011

Mrs. Diane Smith (6WQ)
Water Quality Protection Division
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

RE: Comments on Federal Register: December 12, 2011 (Volume 76, Number 238) [FRC-9505-4]
Clean Water Act Section 303(d): TMDLs for Mercury, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Total
Suspended Solids, Sediment, Turbidity, and Fecal Coliform Bacteria for Selected Subsegments in
the Lake Pontchartrain Basin

Dear Mrs. Smith:

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality hereby submits comments on the TMDLs prepared for EPA Region 6 for TMDLs for Mercury in Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (Subsegments 040303, 040401, 040403, 040501, 040701, 040801, 040905, 040906); TMDLs for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (Subsegments 040501 and 040504); TMDLs for Total Suspended Solids, Sediment, and Turbidity for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (Subsegments 040301, 040401, and 040903); and DRAFT TMDLs for Fecal Coliform Bacteria for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin (040102, 040103, 040201, 040302, 040304, 040305, 040503, 040504, 040505, 040603, 040703, 040909, 040910, 041302, 041401).

LDEQ appreciates the opportunity that EPA provided for review of these draft TMDLs.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. William C. Berger, Jr. of my staff at 225-219-3366.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William C. Berger, Jr. in blue ink, with the date "12-22-11" written below it.

William C. Berger, Jr., P.E.
TMDL/Water Quality Manager

Handwritten signature in blue ink, with the date "12-23-11" written below it.

Attachment

Ec with attachment:

Melvin Mitchell, LDEQ

Yvonne Baker, LDEQ

Claudia Hosch, EPA (6WQ)

Richard Wooster, EPA (6SF)

Brian Mueller, EPA (6WQ)

LDEQ Comments Concerning the following TMDLs submitted to EPA by Tetra Tech:

TMDLs for Mercury in Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (Subsegments 040303, 040401, 040403, 040501, 040701, 040801, 040905, 040906)

By – Tetra Tech, Inc., November 2, 2011

General Comments

- LDEQ will be responsible for the implementation of this TMDL and future updates to this TMDL. Therefore, LDEQ requests that complete documentation, including all appendices be provided to LDEQ upon approval of the TMDL.
- LDEQ recommends that before reducing the allocation of any point source discharge, either to air or to surface waters, it should be determined that the point source, alone or in combination with other dischargers, has a significant impact on mercury levels in the surface waters of a watershed or in the coastal waters.
- LDEQ noticed that the data presented in this TMDL does not evaluate the percent of total mercury loading to the referenced subsegments that is from Louisiana sources, either by point source or atmospheric deposition. What percent of the loading is from LA sources? What percent of LA contribution is from point sources?
- It was assumed that a linear relationship exists between fish tissue concentration and methyl mercury concentrations in the water column. This relationship is variable and does not strongly support these TMDLs. Studies of the fish tissue concentrations of mercury in fresh water species does not indicate a linear relationship between water column or sediment concentrations and fish tissue concentrations. These relationships are likely to be complex and difficult to determine.
- Louisiana does not agree that fish tissue data should be used in the development of in-stream water quality based TMDLs. In-stream water quality does not directly correlate to fish tissue values due to the fact that mercury (methyl mercury) accumulates in different species at different rates. Accumulation may occur over long periods of time and as a result, older fish may contain higher levels of mercury.

Specific Comments

- Section 2.5 Point Sources, Table 2-4, page 2-5: LDEQ requests that the EPA add a note at the end of Table 2-4 to say “Note b. Only facilities that demonstrate a reasonable potential to discharge mercury may be required to develop a mercury minimization program or received a mercury limit or monitoring requirement.”

- Page ii, Table ES-2: LDEQ has reviewed the calculations and determined there were some errors. LDEQ recommends that EPA correct the values provided as the sum of the WLAs (\sum WLAs) for subsegments 040701 and 040801 to match the values provided in Table 4-1, page 4-3.

TMDLs for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (Subsegments 040501 and 040504)

By – Tetra Tech, Inc., November 2, 2011

General Comments:

- LDEQ will be responsible for the implementation of this TMDL and future updates to this TMDL. Therefore, LDEQ requests that complete documentation, including all appendices be provided to LDEQ upon approval of the TMDL.
- LDEQ requests that the phased approach should not be used for this TMDL. Please remove the phased approach and keep the following statements in Section 4.2.1, “To avoid any unnecessary permitting process or unintended monitoring requirements for a number of sources that may not be discharging the pollutants of concern, LDEQ will review these WLAs during the permitting process on a case-by-case basis. LDEQ will determine if a permit limit is appropriate or if the permittee reasonably could cause or contribute to a water quality violation (with LDEQ ensuring that the goals of the TMDL are still being met.”
- Remove any references to chloride and sulfate since this TMDL is a TDS TMDL. It is not a Chloride, Sulfate and TDS TMDL.

Specific Comments:

- Section 4.2 states, “To be conservative, the facilities were assigned WLAs using a water quality target, and no point source has been given a reduction from that level.” However, please be aware that the WLA established in the TMDL is a reduction from estimated discharge values.
- Delete Section 5.2, Phased LDEQ TMDL Approach.
- **NOTE:** If phased implementation remains in the TMDL report, please adjust the following:
 1. Section 5.2.1, 1, delete chlorides and sulfates from the first sentence. It should read: New discharges of TDS loads.
 2. Section 5.2.1, 1, second sentence should read: However, before the subsequent renewal of each permit, an assessment of TDS monitoring data from

designated outfalls could be conducted to determine if permit limits are appropriate during Phase I.

3. Section 5.2.1, 1, third sentence should read: Permit limits will be established on the basis of regulatory guidelines and in accordance with LDEQ's *Permitting Guidance Document for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards*, WQMP Volume 3 and LAC33:IX.1115.C.8 (LDEQ 2008)
 4. Section 5.2.1, 1, last sentence should read: Applicable General Permit schedules will be updated to meet the requirements of the TMDL upon the first renewal of each series following the TMDL approval date. Examples of facility outfalls that may be considered are provided below.
 5. Section 5.2.1, 1.a, second sentence: Where are the reference values?
 6. Section 5.2.1, 2, second sentence should read: Permit limits will be established on the basis of regulatory guidelines and in accordance with LDEQ's *Permitting Guidance Document for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards*, WQMP Volume 3 (LDEQ 2008) and LAC33:IX.1115.C.8 (LDEQ 2008).
- A review of LDEQ's TEMPO database indicated the following information in items 1 and 2 below. **These items should be reviewed and considered in the TMDL. After reviewing these items and revising the TMDL as needed, the WLA tables in Appendix D should be adjusted accordingly.**
 1. Table D-1. Subsegment 040501 Facility List
 - a. AI 18546, Mo-Dad Utilities, LLC – Pine Hill Subdivision is not included.
 - b. AI 43472, Sumner High School is not included.
 - c. AI 94326, Cal-Maine Farms Louisiana Complex - Cal-Maine Foods #52 is not included (Outfalls 002, 004, 006-016).
 - d. AI 27615, Action Oil Recovery Inc is not active.
 2. Table D-2. Subsegment 040504 Facility List
 - 2.1 The following facility is listed in Table D-2, but may not be located within Subsegment 040504. It should be evaluated and adjusted accordingly.
 - a. AI 157747, RSC Hammond – KACO Constructors LLC – Permit terminated on 2/14/2010.
 - 2.2 The following facilities are not listed Table D-2, but are in Subsegment 040504:
 - a. AI 19580, Electroless Nickel Plating of Louisiana Inc; Outfall 002 is not included
 - b. AI 42309, Lionsway LLC - Lions Way Apartments (Outfalls 001-002)
 - c. AI 43998, Woodland Town Home Subdivision
 - d. AI 73850, Ryan's Convenience Store & Deli
 - e. AI 86145, Lamonica Apartments
 - f. AI 86961, Collura Trailer 1&2 - Apartments
 - h. AI 93359, R J Design LLC
 - i. AI 141219, Studio Lane Apartments

- j. AI160045, Binner Properties LLC - The Way Church
- k. AI 160046, Binner Properties LLC - Lifetouch
- l. AI 160047, Binner Properties LLC – Regiomantana
- m. AI 162283, Tractor Supply Co #1351
- n. AI 162476, Pat Tantillo - Olivia's Place (Outfalls 002-003)
- o. AI 162908, Abundant Life Church
- p. AI 164502, Rocky's Body Shop
- q. AI 166812, Ken's Tropical Fish & Pet Supplies
- r. AI 167734, PMC Machinery

DRAFT TMDLs for Total Suspended Solids, Sediment, and Turbidity for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (Subsegments 040301, 040401, and 040903)

By – Tetra Tech, Inc., September 30, 2011

General Comments

- The LDEQ will be responsible for the implementation of this TMDL and future updates to this TMDL. Therefore, LDEQ requests that complete documentation, including all appendices, notes documenting assumptions, and live spreadsheets be provided to the LDEQ upon approval of the TMDL.
- LDEQ objects to establishing a TMDL for a constituent which does not have a numerical water quality criterion such as TSS. LDEQ object to the use of a surrogate parameter to develop a TMDL “endpoint” for parameters for which LDEQ does not have numerical criteria.

Specific Comments:

- Section 1. Introduction, Table 1-1 Section 303(d) listing information for subsegments included in this report, Page 1-2: The 2010 303(d) lists Subsegment 040401 as being impaired for both the FWP and ONR designated uses with Turbidity being the suspected cause of impairment. The suspected sources are Drainage/Filling/Loss of Wetlands and Site Clearance (Land Development or Redevelopment). It also lists Sedimentation/Siltation as a suspected cause of impairment for the ONR designated use in Subsegment 040401. However Table 1-1 shows sediment as the impairment for both the ONR and FWP designated used. Table 1-1 should be corrected to properly indicate the impairments for Subsegment 040401, as listed in the 2010 303(d) list.
- Section 2.4 Hydrologic Setting, second paragraph, page 2-5: Documentation of the Max Forbes personal communication cited in the second paragraph should be provided in the appendices of the report. This documentation should include calculation made by Max Forbes.
- Table 2-5 Active point source discharge permit information for 040301, page 2-11: The table does not include AI# 19894 Cambridge Partnership and AI# 76494

Romero's Food Mart #2. The table should be corrected to show all active facilities in Subsegment 040301, including AI# 19894 and AI# 76494.

- Table 2-6 Active point source discharge permit information for 040401, page 2-11. The table does not include AI# 1276 LA Sugar Refinery and AI# 38152 Martin Subdivision. The table should be corrected to show all active facilities in Subsegment 040401, including the AI# 1276 and AI# 38152.
- Section 4.1.1 Regression Analysis of Turbidity and TSS in Subsegment 040301, page 4-1 and Section 4.1.2 Regression Analysis of Turbidity and TSS in Subsegment 040401, page 4-2 and Section 4.1.3 Regression Analysis of Turbidity and TSS in Subsegment 040903, page 4-3- EPA/FTN used weak correlations between TSS and turbidity to develop linear regression equations. The R^2 values associated with the correlations would be considered unacceptable for any valid scientific analysis. From turbidity's numeric criteria, these equations were used to determine numeric criteria for TSS (resulting in EPA assigning numeric criteria for TSS to Louisiana streams, which conflicts with LDEQ's regulatory intentions). LDEQ takes exception to EPA's continued use of a TMDL "endpoint" in the absence of promulgated water quality criteria. TMDL's seriously impact both point and nonpoint sources and as such should not be capriciously developed for substances for which no numerical water quality criteria exists. While the methodology used for developing the endpoint is the methodology LDEQ uses for establishing water quality criteria, use of this number as the basis for a TMDL without promulgation is unacceptable.
- Appendix C TSS TMDL Calculations for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Table C-2 Lead TMDL summary table for subsegment 040301: The title of the table appears to be incorrect. It should be changed to "TSS TMDL summary table for subsegment 040301".
- Appendix C TSS TMDL Calculations for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Table C-4 Lead TMDL summary table for subsegment 040401: The title of the table appears to be incorrect. It should be changed to "TSS TMDL summary table for subsegment 040401".
- Appendix C TSS TMDL Calculations for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Table C-6 Lead TMDL summary table for subsegment 040903: The title of the table appears to be incorrect. It should be changed to "TSS TMDL summary table for subsegment 040903".
- Appendix C TSS TMDL Calculations for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Table C-6 Lead TMDL summary table for subsegment 040903: The title of the table appears to be incorrect. It should be changed to "TSS TMDL summary table for subsegment 040903".

DRAFT TMDLs for Fecal Coliform Bacteria for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin (040102, 040103, 040201, 040302, 040304, 040305, 040503, 040504, 040505, 040603, 040703, 040909, 040910, 041302, 041401)

LDEQ has reviewed the report and has no additional comments at this time.

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN FOUNDATION
SAVE OUR COAST SAVE OUR LAKE

January 12, 2012

Diane Smith
Environmental Protection Specialist
Water Quality Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Ave., Dallas, TX 75202-2733

RE: DRAFT TMDLs for Total Suspended Solids, Sediment, and Turbidity for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (040301, 040401, and 040903)

Dear Ms Smith,

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) has reviewed the above referenced document and would like to submit the following comments into the public record.

This draft TMDL addresses total suspended solids (TSS), sediment, and turbidity in the Amite River, the Blind River, and Cane Bayou. This TMDL, like several others recently released by Tetra Tech, was difficult to review because:

- current loads are not clearly and concisely presented with TMDL loads,
- percent reductions are not given, and
- units are changed without showing the conversions and other information needed in the conversion (in this case- mg/l to lbs/day).

This has consistently been an issue with all recent TMDLs for the Pontchartrain Basin. It makes the TMDLs difficult to review and will make them even harder to implement. LPBF recommends remedying this on all recent TMDLs.

1) Percent reduction and current loads not given for waterways

The Executive Summary and body of the TMDL need a table that includes: the current loads into the streams, the information in Table ES-3, and the percent load reduction in each waterway. While the current loads are given in the calculations for each waterway in Appendix C, this is rather hidden for this important information. The TMDL would be more user-friendly if the current loads were clearly given in the Executive Summary and body of the TMDL (as described above).

This TMDL also does not give the percent reductions for any waterway in either the body of the document or in the appendices. Giving the percent reductions is common practice and should be expected for TMDLs. It is also done on other TMDL's prepared by Tetra Tech- giving a summary column for percent reductions (in the body of the text) and giving the percent reduction in the individual calculations (in appropriate appendix). Without having the percent reduction

explicitly stated, it makes review of the document (and eventual implementation of the document) difficult. Recommend adding the percent reduction to the executive summary, the main TMDL document, and Appendix C, the calculations.

In addition to the above two points, the current load and TMDL load should be listed together (in Table ES-3) in the *same units* (either lbs/day or mg/l). Without having the current load and TMDL load in the same table and in the same units, it is very hard to calculate percent reductions.

2) Waterways with very low or no reductions

Given the issues in comment 1, appendix C was utilized to calculate percent reductions in the waterways. The Amite River had a 1.7% reduction, the Blind River had a 0% reduction, and Cane Bayou had an 85% reduction. If these reductions are not correct, please amend the TMDLs to clearly state actual reductions. If these reductions are correct, why was a TMDL written for Blind River when there is a 0% reduction (according to Appendix C)?

3) Cane Bayou is a wetland environment

If the 85% reduction is correct, this is an extremely large reduction. Cane Bayou is a wetland environment that regularly experiences stagnant water, tidal influence from the Pontchartrain Estuary, and reverse flow. The impacts of these natural process (and turbidity associated with them) need to be understood before the man-made contribution of turbidity can be ascertained.

4) Appendix C calculation values and use in TMDLs

Information from Appendix C was utilized in comments 2 and 3. Appendix C shows “before reduction” and “after reduction” values in the tables. However, my understanding is that these were calculated to determine reductions that were needed to reach the water quality criteria and were not actually used in the TMDL calculations. Please clarify. If that is the case, LPBF recommends amending the tables in Appendix C to represent actual TMDL calculations.

5) Poor TSS/Turbidity Correlations

In Cane Bayou, the correlation value between TSS and Turbidity is less than robust ($R^2 = 0.2957$) and does not indicate a well-correlated pair. One cannot draw sound conclusions from this poor correlation. The other two waterbodies, Amite and Blind, had correlation values of around 0.5 – 0.6. LPBF recommends a different relationship be utilized if possible, or find a more directly comparable parameter for turbidity.

6) Large percentage of undocumented wastewater treatment plants in watersheds

The draft TMDLs fail to address an important source of TSS and turbidity in the waterways—undocumented wastewater treatment plants. In Louisiana, there was an historic disconnect in the permitting process. Small commercial wastewater treatment plants were permitted to be built according to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) Sanitary Code but were never permitted to discharge through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). The plants were then not known to LDEQ, never having their effluent sampled or the plant examined.

The LPBF has worked with LDEQ and LDHH on this issue since 2002. Within watersheds north of Lake Pontchartrain (not on metropolitan or regional wastewater treatment systems), we have found that a very large percentage (60 to over 80 percent) of small commercial wastewater treatment plants fall in this category. The plants' effluents are never tested and, on average, about half of the plants do not even have the capacity to disinfect their effluent. Through working on this issue with LDEQ and LDHH, we have been able to have three basin rivers removed from the Impaired Waterbodies List for fecal coliform. LDEQ's TMDLs for oxygen-demanding substances acknowledge these undocumented sources. These TMDLs should do that as well.

Also, the contribution of a large number of not-inspected and assumed failed home systems needs to be considered as well. Much of the soil in southeast Louisiana is high in clay so percolation beds do not exist and the home systems discharge into local ditches which lead to basin waterways. EPA estimations average a 50% failure rate for home systems. With tens of thousands of these home systems occurring outside of municipal and regional wastewater systems, they must be included as a turbidity source.

7) Monthly water yield used instead of actual stream flow

The TMDLs use a monthly water yield (divided into a daily water yield) as a surrogate for flow for several waterways. The monthly water yield is a function of overland flow and does not seem to account for groundwater or other water inputs into these streams. This substitution of monthly/daily water yield for actual flow has the potential to introduce a large source of error into the TMDL calculations. There are concerns as to the validity of this approach and it begs a few questions: Where is the monthly discharge data found? Is it known to be accurate? Is there an established relationship between monthly/daily discharge and flow? Finally, has this relationship been tested on streams of known flow? If it has, recommend showing the chart/relationship in an appendix.

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation is strongly in favor of the TMDL program as a means to clean our waterways. However, the TMDLs must be based on good science and a statistically viable data set actually collected from the streams and sources in question. The TMDLs must also be written to directly address the sources of the impairment. As the watershed environmental group of the Pontchartrain Basin, we would support TSS, sediment, and turbidity TMDLs that adequately do all of the above. We ask that EPA and Tetra Tech perform more data collection for these TMDLs and produce a TMDL document to directly address the sources.

The LPBF thanks EPA for the opportunity to comment on this draft TMDL and look forward to our continued cooperation in cleaning the Pontchartrain Basin's waterways.

Sincerely,


Andrea Bourgeois-Calvin, PhD



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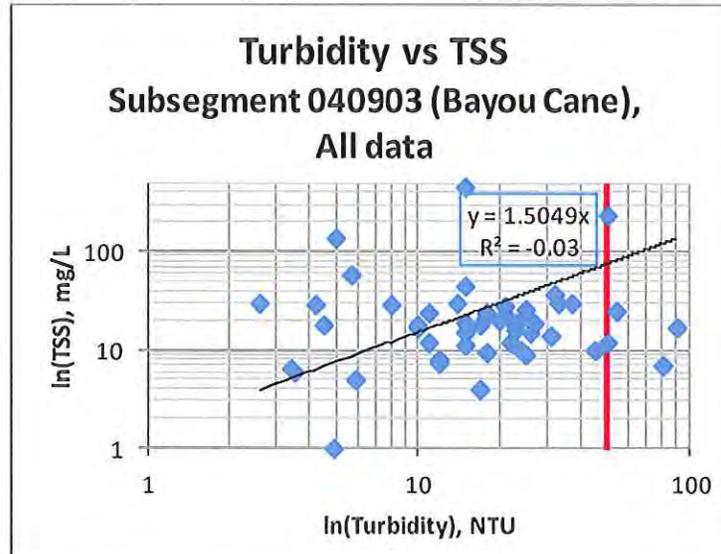
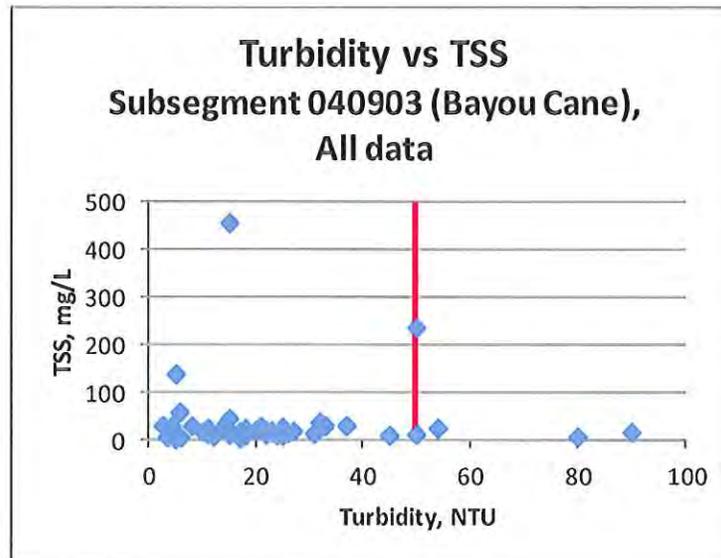
January 12, 2012

RE: Draft TMDLs for TSS, Sediment, & Turbidity for Selected
Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (040301,
040401, & 040903)
(*St. Tammany Parish - Subsegment 040903*)

Dear Ms. Smith,

St. Tammany Parish Government (STP) appreciates the opportunity to review the above draft TMDL document and submit the following comments into the public record:

- Louisiana waterbodies do not have established numerical WQ criterion for either TSS or Turbidity, STP objects to a TMDL and WLA for either constituent.
- STP objects to the use of the tenuous correlation between TSS & Turbidity to develop the linear regression equations used to develop numeric criteria for TSS for the following reasons:
 - An in-depth literature search reveals that little work has been done to assess the accuracy of a correlation between TSS & Turbidity.
 - Turbidity is affected by many interfaces such as: particle concentration, water color, dissolved solids, temperature & particle composition.
 - Research demonstrates that intensive sampling is required for each waterbody under rigorous conditions to establish a valid correlation between TSS & Turbidity.
 - Utilizing Turbidity as a surrogate for TSS for regulatory purposes without intensive, site specific regression modeling is unsupported.
 - The graphs attached below populated TSS & Turbidity sample results at LDEQ WQ Station 302 for 040903 (Bayou Cane) to demonstrate the lack of correlation between Turbidity & TSS for Subsegment 040903.

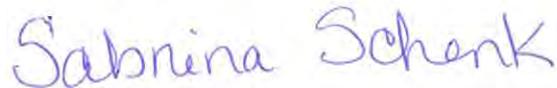


- As you can see in the graphs above, only 5 samples out of the total of 53 measured turbidity ≥ 50 NTU. Those samples were measured 1993-2001. TSS values did not exceed 90 mg/L for the largest Turbidity measurement of 90 NTUs.
 - This is significantly lower than the 868.07 mg/L assigned by the TMDL.
- Since the failure rate (turbidity ≥ 50 NTU) was 9.4% (5/53) is significantly LESS than the 30% required to be listed on the 305(b) and 303(d) Reports, the waterbody WAS in compliance with its uses and should NOT have been listed on either report.
- There is essentially NO relationship between Turbidity and TSS for subsegment 040903 (Bayou Cane) based upon the data for WQMS 0302 for the period of record 1993 to 2001. Thus, there is NO scientific reason that Turbidity should be utilized as a surrogate for TSS in subsegment 040903. Again, the waterbody should be DELISTED for TSS, Turbidity, & Sediment.

- STP objects to the use of weak correlations between TSS & Turbidity & flawed scientific methodology to establish numeric criterion for TSS.
- The impact resulting from the TSS criterion in this TMDL has the potential to adversely affect both point source & nonpoint source dischargers and should be developed utilizing established scientific methods.
- The arbitrary development of TSS criteria is indefensible & the numeric WQ criterion for TSS should be removed from the TMDL.

St. Tammany Parish Government appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft TMDLs for TSS, Sediment, & Turbidity for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Sabrina Schenk,
Watershed Coordinator
St. Tammany Parish Government



January 11, 2012

Diane Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist
Water Quality Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Ave.
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Comments to the *Draft TMDLs for Total Suspended Solids, Sediment, and Turbidity for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana proposed at 76 FR 70442, November 14, 2011*

Dear Ms. Smith,

On behalf of Occidental Chemical Corporation (OxyChem), Providence appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments concerning the *Draft TMDLs for Total Suspended Solids, Sediment, and Turbidity for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana*. As per the original public notice, the deadline for submitting comments was December 29, 2011, recently extended via notice at 76 FR 77226 to January 13, 2012.

The OxyChem Geismar, Louisiana chemical manufacturing facility is currently authorized to discharge treated process wastewater and storm water associated with industrial activity under the authority of Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit number LA0002933 issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) with an effective date of September 1, 2007. Under the authority of the LPDES permit, OxyChem is authorized to discharge the following wastewater streams:

Outfall 001, the continuous discharge of treated process wastewaters, process area storm water, utility wastewater consisting of cogeneration wastewaters, boiler blowdown, north and south plant cooling tower blowdown, deionization and ion exchange regeneration, sanitary wastewater and miscellaneous industrial utility wastewaters.

Internal Outfall 101, the intermittent discharge of process wastewaters from the EDC Units (to BASF).

Outfall 002, the intermittent discharge of non-process area storm water runoff from the chlor-alkali units, MCF area storm water, excess capacity process area storm water from the chlorinated organics units, railyard drain sump II, and chlor-alkali units, and miscellaneous wastewaters including but not limited to steam trap blowdown, clarified water, fire water, instrument air and compressor blowdown, and potable water.

Outfall 001 is discharged to the Mississippi River, while Internal Outfall 101 is routed to BASF for treatment and discharge to the Mississippi River under the authority of BASF's LPDES permit. OxyChem's current LPDES permit identifies the receiving stream for Outfall 002 as Blind River via Smith Bayou. This portion of Blind River is defined in the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) at Title 33:IX.1123, Table 3, as water quality subsegment 040403, "Blind River – From headwaters to Amite River Diversion Canal (Scenic)". The Fact Sheet and Rationale issued with the draft permit on May 23, 2007 incorrectly identified the receiving stream as Blind River via Smith Bayou in water quality subsegment 040401, which is defined at LAC 33:IX.1123.Table 3 as "Blind River – From Amite River Diversion Canal to Lake Maurepas".

Attached as Figure 1 is a map identifying the OxyChem Geismar facility, the permitted final Outfalls, the Outfall 002 effluent route, and LDEQ's watershed subsegment boundaries. The discharge from final Outfall 002 is made into a drainage canal; thence to Smith Bayou; thence to Bayou Francois in water quality basin subsegment 040404, which is defined at LAC 33:IX.1123, Table 3 as "New River – From Headwaters to New River Canal". Near the Intersection of Cornerview Road and Nash Drive in the City of Gonzales, a diversion canal diverts water from New River into Bayou Francois. New River and Bayou Francois then converge approximately 12 stream miles downstream at an Ascension Parish pump station where the two streams are pumped into New River Canal. Thus, the correct description for the OxyChem Geismar Outfall 002 effluent routing is "to un-named drainage ditch to Smith Bayou, thence to Bayou Francois".

The *Draft TMDLs for Total Suspended Solids, Sediment, and Turbidity for Selected Subsegments in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana* incorrectly identifies the OxyChem Geismar facility, along with numerous other facilities, as point source dischargers to water quality subsegment 040401. Based on the information presented above and on the attached Figure 1, OxyChem believes that the discharge from the OxyChem Geismar facility through Final Outfall 002, which first enters water quality subsegment 040404 thence subsegment 040403 prior to entering subsegment 040401 approximately 29 miles downstream does not possess the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to elevated levels of total suspended solids, sediment, or turbidity in subsegment 040401. Therefore, OxyChem requests that the Geismar facility be removed from the final TMDL.

If you have any questions or require any additional information regarding these comments please do not hesitate to contact me at (225) 766-7400.

Sincerely,
Providence



Aimee' R. Killeen
Project Director
1201 Main Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

FIGURE 1
CORRECTED EFFLUENT ROUTE



Legend

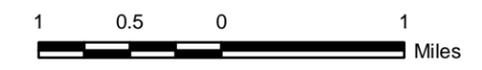
- Facility Boundary
- Subsegment Boundary
- ▶ Effluent Route
- ◆ Outfall Location

Note

Outfall 001 discharges into the Mississippi River.

Reference

Base map comprised of Bing Maps aerial imagery from (c) 2010 Microsoft Corporation and its data suppliers.



Corrected Effluent Route

TMDL Comment Letter
Geismar, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Occidental Chemical Corporation
Geismar Plant



Drawn By	LMH	12/09/11
Checked By	LMM	12/09/11
Approved By	ARK	12/09/11
Project Number		1
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