

Mike McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301

Dear Dr. McDaniel:

Thank you for submitting Louisiana's 2006 Section 303(d) List of water quality limited waterbodies. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has conducted a complete review of the submittals dated February 12, 2007, with subsequent corrections submitted on September 20, 2007 and supporting documentation and supplemental information provided at EPA's request. Based on this review, EPA has determined that Louisiana's 2006 list of water quality limited segments (WQLSs) still requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) partially meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA" or "the Act") and EPA's implementing regulations. Louisiana's water body listings and priority ranking decisions meet the listing requirements. However, Louisiana's decisions not to list waters and pollutants identified in the enclosed tables do not meet the listing requirements. Therefore, by this final action, EPA approves the State's decisions to list all the water bodies and associated pollutants identified in the final 2006 §303(d) List of the State's listing submission and associated priority rankings and disapproves the State's decision not to list 136 waters and associated pollutants. A more detailed discussion of this matter is found in the enclosed decision document. EPA is further identifying these additional water bodies and pollutants with appropriate priority rankings for inclusion on the 2006 Section 303(d) List. EPA will open a public comment period on the additions to the list and will, if necessary, revise the list of added waters and pollutants after we consider any comments received. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and a summary of EPA's review of Louisiana's compliance with each requirement, are described in the enclosed decision document.

Louisiana's final 2006 §303(d) List includes 483 water body-pollutant combinations. The State listings are based on an assessment methodology described in the State submittals. In addition to the list, EPA regulations at 40 CFR 130.7 require that the State provide a priority ranking for each listing and a TMDL development schedule for the next two years. The State provided priority rankings for all listed waters as required by Section 303(d) and its implementing regulations. The 483 water body/pollutant combinations are targeted for TMDL development in the next 5 years. This is consistent with the targeting requirement of 40 CFR 130.7 and meets the requirements under the April 1, 2002 Consent Decree Sierra Club and Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Inc. v. EPA, Civil Action No. 96-0527.

EPA acknowledges that the public participation process sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality included solicitations of public comments through newspaper advertisements, public hearings, and preparation of a responsiveness summary explaining how the State considered public comment in the final listing decisions. These actions meet the public participation requirements as required in 40 CFR 130.7.

Thank you for your efforts to develop the 2006 Section 303(d) List. We will continue to coordinate with you during the upcoming comment period. If you have questions on any of the above information, feel free to give me a call at (214) 665-7101 or call Mark Stead at (214) 665-2271.

Sincerely,

Miguel I. Flores,
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures

cc: Linda Levy
Watershed Planning
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality