



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAY - 2 2013

Peggy Hatch
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313

Dear Ms. Hatch:

Thank you for submitting Louisiana's 2012 § 303(d) List of water quality limited waterbodies. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has conducted a complete review of the submittals received February 14, 2012. Based on this review, EPA has determined that Louisiana's 2012 list of 323 water quality limited segments still requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads partially meets the requirements of § 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations. Louisiana's water body listings and priority ranking decisions meet the listing requirements. However, Louisiana's decision not to list the three waters identified in the enclosure does not meet the listing requirements. Therefore, EPA approves the state's decisions to list all the water bodies identified in the 2012 § 303(d) List of the states listing submission and associated priority rankings and proposes to disapprove the state's decision not to list three coastal waters west of the Mississippi River mouth which are affected by low levels of dissolved oxygen. A more detailed discussion is found in the enclosed decision document.

EPA will open a public comment period on the proposed additions to the list and will, if necessary, revise the list 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.

Thank you for your efforts in developing the 2012 § 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 Robert Cook (214) 665-7141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "WK Honker".

William K. Honker, P.E.

Director

Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure: Record of Decision