



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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WATER AND WATERSHEDS

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
STATE WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

Mr. Barry Burnell
Administrator
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the Lake Lowell TMDL (HUC: 17050114)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Lake Lowell Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on November 9, 2010. Following our review, EPA is pleased to approve the total phosphorus TMDL for Lake Lowell (assessment unit 17050114SW004_06).

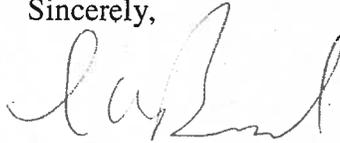
Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards addressed by this TMDL. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include Lake Lowell on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for nutrients and dissolved oxygen covered by this TMDL.

This submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDL. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, EPA is not taking action on these strategies. Implementation is the critical next step to realize improvements in water quality, and we encourage IDEQ to continue their work with responsible parties on implementation of these strategies.

EPA appreciates the cooperation and excellent work of Lauri Monnot, especially her coordination prior to the public comment period and sharing of a pre-public comment draft with EPA staff. We support this early involvement and believe it results in a better understanding of the approaches used to develop the TMDL and enables meaningful discussion to occur between IDEQ and EPA staff that can later expedite EPA's review of the final TMDL document.

By EPA's approval, this TMDL is now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the CWA. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call Helen Rueda of my staff at (503) 326-3280 in our Oregon Operations Office.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, IDEQ
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. Craig Shepard, Water Quality Manager, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ
Ms. Lauri Monnot, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice