



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

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

SEP 18 2015

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RE: Approval of Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum (Hydrologic Unit Code 17050114)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the Sediment and Bacteria Addendum Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), as listed in the attached table, for the Lower Boise River Subbasin, as submitted on June 18, 2015. This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17050114 from the Idaho 1998 §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

The EPA appreciates the cooperation and work of the Boise Regional Office on this TMDL, especially the coordination prior to the public comment period and the sharing of a pre-public comment draft with EPA staff. We support this kind of early involvement and believe it results in a better understanding of the approaches used to develop the TMDL and enables meaningful discussions to occur between Idaho and EPA staff that can later expedite EPA's review of the final document.

The June 18, 2015, submittal also includes the Implementation Strategies for the TMDLs. The strategies were developed and submitted pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. EPA currently has no duty to approve or disapprove Implementation Strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and therefore, EPA is not taking action on them. However, we believe implementation is the critical next step for realizing improvements in water quality called for in the TMDL and encourage IDEQ to continue their work with Responsible Parties on implementation.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206)553-1855, or you may call Bill Stewart of my staff at (208)378-5753.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water & Watersheds

Enclosure

cc: John Tippetts, IDEQ Director (electronically)
Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General (electronically)
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager (electronically)
Lance Holloway, IDEQ, Idaho Falls Regional Office Water Quality Manager (electronically)

Table 1: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

<i>Name of Creek/Water Segment</i>	<i>Assessment Unit #</i>	<i>Pollutant</i>
Indian Creek – Sugar Avenue to Boise River	ID17050114SW002_04	Suspended Sediment E.coli
Indian Creek above Reservoir – 3 rd order	ID17050114SW003b_03	Suspended Sediment
Indian Creek above Reservoir – 1st and 2nd order	ID17050114SW003d_02	Suspended Sediment E.coli
Indian Creek – upstream of reservoir – 3 rd order	ID17050114SW003d_03	Suspended Sediment
Mason Creek – entire watershed	ID17050114SW006_02	Suspended Sediment E.coli
Fifteenmile Creek – 4th order (Fivemile Creek to mouth)	ID17050114SW007_04	Suspended Sediment E.coli
Tenmile Creek – 3rd order below Blacks Creek Reservoir	ID17050114SW008_03	Suspended Sediment E.coli
Fivemile, Eightmile, and Ninemile Creeks - 1st and 2nd order	ID17050114SW010_02	E.coli
Fivemile Creek – 3 rd order	ID17050114SW010_03	Suspended Sediment E.coli
Willow Creek – 3 rd order	ID17050114SW015_03	Suspended Sediment
Sand Hollow Creek – C-line Canal to I-84	ID17050114SW016_03	Suspended Sediment
Sand Hollow Creek – I-84 to Sharp Road	ID17050114SW017_03	Suspended Sediment E.coli
Sand Hollow Creek – Sharp Road to Snake River	ID17050114SW017_06	Suspended Sediment E.coli

The IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards for total phosphorus and sediment but had not previously been included on Idaho's List. These TMDLs and waterbodies are identified in Table 2 below. The EPA understands that these waters would have been included on the List had the State been aware of the impairment at the time the List was completed.

Table 2: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Unlisted Waters

<i>Name of Creek/Water Segment</i>	<i>Assessment Unit #</i>	<i>Pollutant</i>
Dixie Slough	ID17050114SW001_02	E. coli
Sand Creek (part of Stewart Gulch, Cottonwood and Crane Creeks – 1 st and 2 nd order)	ID17050114SW012_02	E. coli