



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

DEC - 7 2016

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

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

Re: Approval of the Upper Salmon River Subbasin Assessment and TMDL – 2016 Addendum and Five-Year Review (HUC 17060201)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

On September 9, 2016, United States Environmental Protection Agency received the *Upper Salmon River Subbasin Assessment and TMDL – 2016 Addendum and Five-Year Review (HUC 17060201)* ('2016 Addendum'). Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted this TMDL document by reference in an email dated September 9, 2016, for review under Section 303(d)(2) of the Clean Water Act. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve TMDLs for twenty-one water quality-limited segments proposed by IDEQ within the 2016 Addendum. TMDLs approved for Assessment Units (AUs) in this action are listed in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: EPA-Approved TMDLs from Idaho's 2012 List of Impaired Waters

Waterbody	Reach	Assessment Unit Number	Pollutant(s)
Challis Creek	Darling Creek to mouth	ID17060201SL007_04	Temperature
Challis Creek	Bear Creek to Darling Creek	ID17060201SL009_04	Temperature
Squaw Creek	Tributaries	ID17060201SL023_02	Temperature
Squaw Creek	Willow Creek to Martin Creek	ID17060201SL023_03	Temperature
Squaw Creek	Martin Creek to Cash Creek	ID17060201SL023_04	Temperature
Salmon River	Thompson Creek to Squaw Creek	ID17060201SL027_05	Temperature
Salmon River	Valley Creek to Yankee Fork Creek	ID17060201SL047_05	Temperature
Salmon River	Redfish Lake Creek to Valley Creek	ID17060201SL063_05	Temperature
Warm Spring Creek	Hole-in-Rock Creek to mouth	ID17060201SL131_04	Sediment
Warm Spring Creek	Source to Hole-in-Rock Creek	ID17060201SL132_02	Sediment
Warm Spring Creek	Source to Hole-in-Rock Creek	ID17060201SL132_03	Sediment
Warm Spring Creek	Source to Hole-in-Rock Creek	ID17060201SL132_04	Sediment

The IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies that were not meeting water quality standards for temperature and *Escherichia coli* but had not previously been included on Idaho's 303(d) List for impaired waters requiring TMDLs (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 Idaho been aware of the impairment at the time the List was completed.

Table 2: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Unlisted but Impaired Waters

Waterbody	Reach	Assessment Unit Number	Pollutant(s)
Salmon River	Pennal Gulch to Pahsimeroi River	ID17060201SL001_06	Temperature
Challis Creek	Bear Creek to Darling Creek	ID17060201SL009_03	Temperature
Salmon River	Birch Creek (formerly Garden Creek/Gini Canal) to Pennal Gulch	ID17060201SL014_06	Temperature
Salmon River	East Fork Salmon River to Birch Creek (formerly Garden Creek/Gini Canal)	ID17060201SL016_06	Temperature
Salmon River	Squaw Creek to East Fork Salmon River	ID17060201SL019_05	Temperature
Squaw Creek	Cash Creek to mouth	ID17060201SL021_04	Temperature
Aspen Creek	Martin Creek to Cash Creek	ID1706201SL024_02	Temperature
Salmon River	Yankee Fork Creek to Thompson Creek	ID17060201SL031_05	Temperature
Herd Creek	Source to mouth	ID17060201SL118_04	<i>Escherichia coli</i>

The EPA's review indicates that allocations in these TMDLs have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to attainment of applicable water quality standards. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutants covered by these TMDLs.

This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for the proposed de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17060201 from the Idaho §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.

Your submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. As you know, the EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Therefore, the EPA is not taking action on implementation 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.

We would also like to recognize Troy Saffle and his staff for their efforts in bringing these TMDLs to completion.

By the EPA's approval, these TMDLs are 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 me at (206) 553-1855, or have your staff contact Chris Zell of my staff at (206) 553-1353.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel D. Opalski".

Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho
Mr. Mark Shumar, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. Troy Saffle, Water Quality Manager, Idaho Falls Regional Office, IDEQ