



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466



Ref: 8EPR-EP

DEC 26 1996

Mr. Steve Pirner, Director
Division of Environmental Regulations
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3181

Re: Approval of TMDLs
(Section 303(d) Clean Water Act)

Dear Mr. Pirner:

Thank you for the submittal dated October 30 requesting approval of certain actions under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. We have completed our review of these projects as TMDLs and wish to provide approval on some of the actions. In particular, we approve those TMDLs listed on the attached table in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq.). We wish to also acknowledge that these projects submitted to us are primarily based on a voluntary approach to solving water quality problems.

In our June 26, 1996 correspondence to all of the Region VIII states, we requested that past point and nonpoint source actions be evaluated for approval as TMDLs under the Clean Water Act. We feel that each state has completed certain projects that should get acknowledgement as TMDLs. The June 26 correspondence provided a list of minimum characteristics for TMDLs. We feel that several of the actions mentioned in your October 30 letter meet these minimum characteristics.

There are several reports submitted to us regarding projects that do not qualify as TMDLs. These projects appear to have relied on a technology-based approach, using best professional judgement to develop a plan of action. Although the technology-based approach is appropriate and effective in many cases and will result in attainment of water quality goals, there were pieces missing from these particular projects that would have qualified them as TMDLs. These projects most often did not include a quantitative water quality endpoint (such as an in-lake phosphorus concentration, Secchi depth reading, or standing crop goal) or a quantitative reduction target (such as a percent reduction in either sediment or nutrient loading). Again, these projects may lead to or have resulted in attainment of water quality goals, but are considered as using a technology-based approach rather than a TMDL approach. The following are the projects that fall under the technology-based approach:

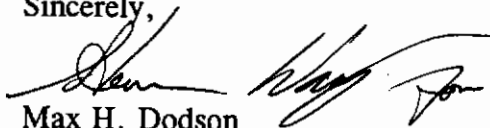


- Lake Andes (Charles Mix County)
- Beaver Lake/Beaver Creek Watershed (Yankton County)
- Burke Lake (Gregory County)
- Lake Byron (Beadle County)
- Lake Campbell/Battle Creek (Lake & Moody Counties)
- Canyon Lake/Rapid Creek
- East Lake Eureka (McPherson County)
- Lake Herman (Lake County)
- McCook Lake (Union County)
- Mina Lake (Edmunds County)
- Punished Woman's Lake (Codington County)
- Ravine Lake (Beadle County)
- Richmond Lake (Brown County)
- Swan Lake (Turner County)
- Wall Lake (Minnehaha County)

In contrast, the projects listed on the attached table fully qualify as TMDLs, meeting all the minimum requirements as provided for in our June 26 correspondence to you.

Thank you for this submittal. If you have any questions concerning this approval, feel free to contact Bruce Zander of my staff at 303/312-6846.

Sincerely,



Max H. Dodson
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

cc: Tim Bjork

Attachment

Attachment

APPROVED TMDLS

Waterbody Name	TMDL Parameter/ Pollutant	Water Quality Goal/Endpoint	TMDL	Reference Document(s)
Big Stone Lake*	total nitrogen total phosphorus	39 $\mu\text{g/l}$ area-weighted annual mean chlorophyll- <i>a</i> 105 $\mu\text{g/l}$ area weighted mean total phosphorus	40% reduction in total phosphorus & total nitrogen	"Restoration of Big Stone Lake; Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Lake Management Measures; EPA Clean Lakes Phase II Final Report" (HDR Engineering; 1994)
Lake Kampeska*	total nutrients sediment	return Lake Kampeska from hypereutrophic to eutrophic condition	35% reduction in nutrient loadings 25% reduction in sediment loadings	Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project (Section 319) Project Implementation Plan (SDDENR; June 1996) and Lake Kampeska Watershed Project (Section 319) (SDDENR; 1994)
Pelican Lake	total nutrients sediment	70 $\mu\text{g/l}$ total phosphorus trophic state index (TSI) 65	55% reduction in nutrient loadings 65% reduction in sediment loadings	Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project (Section 319) Project Implementation Plan (SDDENR; June 1996) and Lake Assessment Project; Pelican Lake; Codington County, South Dakota (SDDENR; 1995)
Lake Poinsett	total phosphorus	158 tons total lake algal biomass	40% reduction in total phosphorus	Phase I Diagnostic Feasibility Study; Final Report; Lake Poinsett; Hamlin County, South Dakota (SDDENR, 1996)

* These waterbodies are currently on or have been on the State's Section 303(d) waterbody list. The TMDLs associated with these waters are considered Section 303(d)(1) TMDLs. All others are considered Section 303(d)(3) TMDLs since the waters were not on the State's waterbody list.