

Ms. Debby White
Water Quality Management Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas, 66101

June 20, 2006

Re: Notice of Availability Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Blackbird Creek in the State of Missouri

Dear: Ms White

I first would like to commend the department on a job well done on the study of the lower Blackbird Creek in Putnam Co. and on into Adair Co. where it joins the Chariton River.

The mention of potential discharge and ground water infiltration to North Blackbird Creek from Premium Standard Farms, Whitetail Facility, a Class 1A hog CAFO, brings to mind that you have neglected to mention other small CAFO operations in this watershed. Currently there are five contract operations for Premium Standard Farms in the North and/or South Blackbird Creek watershed on HWY W. These five operations also include lagoons and land applications fields of wastewater with the potential to discharge and have ground water infiltration as a large CAFO. There is also a 3500 head feeder calf operation on the South Blackbird Creek watershed, also on HWY W. The two creeks then merge just above HWY 149 before traveling on into Adair Co. and into the Chariton River.

Your comments also mention the town of Unionville has two small municipal wastewater treatment facilities that discharges treated effluent to the tributaries of North and South Blackbird Creek, plus stormwater runoff from Unionville. However, there was no mention of the municipal wastewater treatment facilities for the Wildflower Community Association located at Lake Thunderhead north of Unionville, which discharges into North Blackbird Creek.

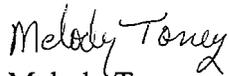
By now you are asking yourself why mention these operations, when the stream is listed impaired due to pollutant sediment. Channelization, the loss of riparian cover, and livestock with stream bank access can cause many problems to this creek and will continue to cause more in the future. However, I feel the small CAFO's and the three municipal waste systems in this watershed are affecting this creek greater then you think.

On numerous occasions, I have tested high level of ammonia, nitrates, and phosphates, which are being released from these municipal waste systems and from the large CAFO that has wastewater runoff from land application fields and in some cases large spill that, have affected this creek in the same manner. From my standpoint, I feel this creek is being greatly impacted with nutrient overload not only from above, but also from the small CAFO's below. If this pattern continues this stream will not only be

impacted by pollutant sediment and habitat loss, but from nutrient overload, which will affect the health of the whole stream.

In closing, I urge you to re-list this stream on the 303(d) list not only for pollutant sediment, but also from nutrient overload that is taking place every day to this creek.

Sincerely,



Melody Torrey

Stream Team 714

14747 ST HWY 129

Unionville, MO. 63565

660-947-2169



JUN 27 2006

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

To: Phil

RECEIVED
JUN 28 11:02

Ms. Melody Torrey
14747 State Highway 129
Unionville, MO 63565

Dear Ms. Torrey:

Re: Comment Letter for Blackbird Creek TMDL, Adair County, Missouri

Thank you for your letter concerning Blackbird Creek in Adair County. I'd like to take this opportunity to respond to your letter. Your letter is very important to the EPA. Many of the points that you make in the letter about potential sources for sediment are addressed through the TMDL itself and your concern regarding potential for nutrient contamination is noteworthy.

In your letter, you provide information about other possible pollutants and their sources. These will be addressed through Missouri's 303(d) List of impaired waters. The process for listing impaired waters starts with the states creating their list of impaired waters, referred to as the 303(d) List, because the list of impaired waterbodies that States, Territories and authorized Tribes are required to submit to EPA is pursuant to section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The State will provide the public a period to review their list and you should look for that future opportunity. After the state completes their listing process, the 303(d) List is submitted to EPA for review and approval. I am passing your letter to the folks in our Water Quality Standards Branch and specifically to the Water Quality Standards Coordinator for Missouri, who will be able to use your letter for investigation during her review of the Missouri 303(d) List when the state submits it to EPA.

Thank you for your letter and your concern about Blackbird Creek and in particular your concerns about impacts from nutrient overloading. Because of concerned citizens, such as you, we are better able to review the state's impaired waters' list.

Thank you,

John A. DeLashmit
Water Quality Management Branch
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

cc: Edward Galbraith, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

