Missouri
Department of
Natural Resources

DRAFT PINEY CREEK TMDL
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Notice
Dec. 8, 2000 – Jan. 7, 2001

Piney Creek
WBID #2604

Oregon County, Mo.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
800-361-4827 / 573-751-1300

Ozark Chapter / Sierra Club

Ken Midkiff, Director
Ozark Chapter/Sierra Club
1007 N. College Ave., Ste. #1
Columbia, MO 65201-4794

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Planning Section-WPCP-DEQ-MODNR
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

December 15, 2000

REF: TMDLs - comments

1. **Davis Creek** in Lafayette County. The solution to the problem appears to be appropriate: more stringent effluent limits on ammonia and dissolved oxygen. However, there is no indication as to timeline in Section 9 Implementation Plans, other than the "Once the permit is reopened, the OSLS will have three years to comply with the permit revisions." **There must be a date-certain when the permit will be re-opened and modified effluent limits applied.** It would be acceptable to state "the permit will be modified by the end of 2001", but there must be a deadline.

2. **Piney Creek** in Oregon County. Akin to Davis Creek, the solution is appropriate, but there is no indication of when implementation will occur. All that is stated is the "...permit will be modified..." with no date-certain. The timeline for implementation must be added.

3. **Howell Creek** in Howell County. We have no objections to this TMDL. It is clear that dechlorination of the wastewaters discharged by the West Plains WWTP will correct the impairment, and it is clear that this will be required at the revision of the permit, which will occur upon re-issuance in October of 2001.

Thank you for timely preparation of these TMDL analyses and for the opportunity to comment. We trust that the deficiencies noted in #1 and #2 above will be corrected.

Sincerely,

Ken Midkiff

Bob Holden
~~Mel Carnahan,~~ Governor • Stephen M. Mahfood, Director

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

January 12, 2001

Mr. Ken Midkiff, Director
Ozark Chapter/Sierra Club
1007 North College Avenue, Suite #1
Columbia, MO 65201-4794

Copy

Dear Mr. Midkiff:

Thank you for reviewing these TMDLs and taking the time to comment.

Davis Creek TMDL:

Implementation will be accomplished through permit action. The permit expires in 2002. The permit may be reopened after the TMDL is final and modified to reflect the results of the TMDL. The timeline for finalizing the permit modification is unknown at this time pending public notice and other due process requirements.

Piney Creek TMDL:

Implementation will be accomplished through permit action. The permit expires in 2004. This TMDL was scheduled for completion in 2005, so this is completed ahead of schedule. The permit may be reopened after the TMDL is final and modified to reflect the results of the TMDL. The timeline for finalizing the permit modification is unknown at this time pending public notice and other due process requirements.

Howell Creek TMDL:

No comment is necessary.

Again, thank you for your comments. Sierra Club's interest in the TMDL process and concern for the health of Missouri's water resources is appreciated. If you have other questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact Gail Wilson of the Planning Section at (573) 526-1535.

Sincerely,

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

John Madras, Chief
Planning Section

JM:gwm

Recycled Paper

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters
2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180
Telephone: 573/751-4115 ◆ Missouri Relay Center: 1-800-735-2966 (TDD)

JERRY M. CONLEY, Director

REPLY TO: Columbia Research Center
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Columbia, MO 65201
Telephone: 573/882-9880
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December 28, 2000

Sharon Clifford
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Pollution Control Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Ms. Clifford:

MDC staff have had the opportunity to review the draft TMDLs for Piney, Howell and Davis Creeks. Our comments follow below.

Piney Creek near Alton in Oregon County
We support the draft plan's reduction of Chlorine to support warm water aquatic life. It is our hope that this new standard will be implemented into the City of Alton's NPDES permit when it expires.

Howell Creek near West Plains in Howell County
We support the draft plan's reduction of Chlorine to support warm water aquatic life. It is our hope that this new standard will be included in the City of West Plain's NPDES permit.

Davis Creek in Lafayette County

OSLS Compliance
The primary concern with the establishment of criteria for Davis Creek is the history of non-compliance of OSLS. The TMDL can only be successful in support of warm water aquatic life if the system is brought into consistent compliance.

Changes in the Watershed
Land use changes are occurring in the Davis Creek watershed. The city of Odessa is growing and much of this urban development is in the Davis Creek watershed. Robin Tillett, Fisheries Management Biologist, has been contacted by three landowners along Davis Creek regarding concerns about excessive stream bank erosion. At one site, where the landowner had a healthy wooded riparian corridor there were huge trees lying in the channel along its entire length. In addition, the culverts under a county road downstream from a new housing development have

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washed out and bridges over the creek on county roads are also being threatened. Alterations to the watershed have resulted in increased runoff, higher water velocity and increased volume in the stream channel. In addition, one of the landowners had photos of raw sewage being dumped into the stream from the wastewater treatment facility.

It is our concern that development will continue at a rate that exceeds the capacity of the existing wastewater treatment facility. We are concerned about the effect further development will have on stream base flows. Water will run off more rapidly as impervious surfaces increase resulting in higher stream flows during wet weather and lower base flows. The watershed's retention capacity to hold and slowly release it to maintain existing base flows is being altered. We are unsure that the monitoring outlined in this plan will adequately evaluate these impacts. Base flow monitoring should be included and as flows change, the discharge from point source should be adjusted. The limits now listed in the TMDL are based on a base flow that was measure several years ago. This measurement needs to be adjusted over time to reflect the current watershed conditions.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on these draft TMDLs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leanna Zweig

Leanna Zweig
Environmental Services Biologist

Bob Holden
Governor • Stephen M. Mahfood, Director

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

January 11, 2001

Ms. Leanna Zweig
Environmental Services Biologist
Missouri Department of Conservation
2901 West Truman Blvd, P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

Dear Ms. Zweig:

Thank you for your comments regarding the Piney, Howell and Davis creeks TMDLs. The facilities at Piney and Howell creeks need to be brought into compliance with the Missouri Water Quality Standards. The standards state that when wastewater facilities discharge effluent into losing streams, disinfection needs to be accomplished, and if chlorine is used, dechlorination is required. If this is not practical, other methods of disinfection are available, such as ultraviolet radiation or the use of ozone.

In regard to Davis Creek, the city of Odessa has hired an engineer to look at all the options to improve its wastewater treatment system. The engineer is aware of growth in Odessa, and that the TMDL will require dechlorination, and perhaps nitrate and phosphorus removal in the future. They are considering options to the lagoon system and are looking at upgrading the facility. Since there is no hard and fast data on nonpoint source contributions to Davis Creek, this TMDL is phased, and more information will be collected to give a better picture of what is happening in that watershed, which will be used to facilitate implementation. The TMDL process is an evolving, ongoing one, and we expect that there will be more work to come in the Davis Creek area.

Like you, we have received comments regarding Davis Creek and the need to educate landowners regarding the importance of a healthy riparian corridor. Mr. Richard Litle's comments have been referred to your department concerning his questions about incentive payments for riparian protection. In a response to him, we offered to come down and speak about the TMDL and how landowners can improve water quality in their watershed. A public meeting with representatives from your department, NRCS, the Soil & Water Conservation District, this department, the city, the county and whomever else they wish to invite would give landowners good information on how they can improve their watershed.

Any input you or local people can give us is appreciated. That landowners have photographs of the plant dumping raw sewage into the stream is an important fact that should have been reported to the department's regional office at the time it happened. The purpose of a TMDL is not just to point out where water quality problems exist, but to encourage communication and public participation in improving water quality.

Again, thank you for your comments. We look forward to working with you as the TMDL process goes forward. If you have any questions or want to discuss further, please contact Gail Wilson at 751-7428.

Sincerely,

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

John Madras

John Madras, Chief
Planning Section

JM:gwd