



Missouri
Department of
Natural Resources

DRAFTMAIN DITCH TMDL
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Notice
Aug. 5 – Sept. 4, 2005

**Main Ditch
WBID #2814**

Butler County, Mo.

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



CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF
CITY HALL, 101 OAK STREET
POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI 63901

August 8, 2005

Mr. Phil Schroeder, Section Chief
Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Re: **Comments on TMDL Study for Main Ditch in Butler County, Missouri**

Dear Mr. Schroeder,

The following comments are related to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report issued for Public Notice on August 5, 2005. The City of Poplar Bluff disagrees with the conclusions of the TMDL. We believe that additional study is required before the report can be finalized.

We request that MDNR rerun the water quality model and develop wasteload allocations for the following scenario:

1. Aeration added to the wastewater treatment plant effluent stream.

Furthermore, it is our understanding that the wasteload allocation (WLA) in the TMDL report is in large measure based on the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) standard of 5.0 mg/l assigned to the receiving stream, which is Main Ditch. We maintain that the standard of 5.0 mg/l is inappropriate and overprotective for Main Ditch, which is a man-made ditch that is not naturally capable of sustaining the kind of aquatic life that needs a dissolved oxygen level greater than 5 mg/l. Furthermore, we believe that DO levels less than 5.0 mg/l are naturally-occurring in this ditch, as is evidenced upstream where the ditch is not influenced by the wastewater plant discharge. This fact is illustrated in Figure 5 of the TMDL report and acknowledged in the report text. As a result, we believe that a site-specific determination of the minimum allowable DO should be conducted.

The City of Poplar Bluff is considering appealing to the Clean Water Commission to allow the implementation of a site-specific dissolved oxygen criterion. We believe that a minimum DO concentration of 3.0 mg/l is more appropriate for Main Ditch. Our decision to pursue a site-specific evaluation, or to pursue discharging to a different receiving water, will be based in large measure upon whether we believe we can meet a hypothetical

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Mr. Phil Schroeder
August 8, 2005
Page 2

DO concentration in the ditch by making significant upgrades to our existing facilities and processes. In order to make a meaningful assessment, we need to know the wasteload allocation resulting from a hypothetically lower DO criteria. To that end, we request that MDNR run the water quality model for the following additional scenarios:

2. Minimum DO concentration criterion lowered to 4.0 mg/l.
3. Minimum DO concentration criterion lowered to 3.0 mg/l.
4. Minimum DO criterion lowered to 3.0 mg/l and aeration added to the effluent stream.

The City of Poplar Bluff reserves the right to provide additional comments to the report.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Bach, Assistant General Manager of Municipal Utilities, at (573) 686-8003.

Sincerely,


Loyd Matthews
Mayor

/pk

pc Bill Bach, Assistant General Manager, Municipal Utilities

Ann

STATE OF MISSOURI
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director

www.dnr.mo.gov

October 5, 2005

The Honorable Loyd Mathews, Mayor
 City of Poplar Bluff
 City Hall, 101 Oak Street
 Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

Re: Main Ditch Total Maximum Daily Load

Dear Mayor Mathews:

This is in response to your letter dated August 8, 2005 concerning the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document for Main Ditch. My staff has met with the Water Protection Program's NPDES Permits and Engineering Section concerning your comments and has developed an approach for you to consider.

As you know, the standard for Dissolved Oxygen (DO) is 5 mg/l and, therefore, the TMDL was written based on this standard. At this time we have no EPA approved regulatory ability to include site specific criteria in the TMDL as requested in your comment. Therefore we have no choice but to use the standard, 5 mg/l for DO. However, we plan to submit the TMDL to EPA as Phase 1 of a phased TMDL and will include a paragraph in the revised edition that will allow us to revisit the TMDL for Phase 2, once the new site specific criteria protocol is approved and in place.

You may request a variance from the DO standard before the Clean Water Commission. If the commission approves the variance, it will allow you to continue operation until an appropriate site-specific criterion is developed. A condition of the variance request will most likely include a settlement agreement that outlines specific monitoring requirements and a timeline for establishing site specific criteria. The procedure for requesting variances is found at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/forms/780-0181.pdf>. I have enclosed a copy of a variance request for your information

Unfortunately, due to staff constraints we cannot run the various DO scenarios that you requested in your letter. However, at your request we will provide the electronic copy of the model to you so that your consultant may explore the potential wasteload allocations and corresponding permit limits.

Thank you for your continued interest. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Ann Crawford of my staff at P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or (573) 751-5827.

Sincerely,

WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

Ann Crawford

for Philip A. Schroeder, Chief
 Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section

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Enclosure

c: Ms. Elena Seon, Compliance and Enforcement Section