



Missouri  
Department of  
Natural Resources

DRAFT MANACLE CREEK AND CEDAR CREEK TMDL  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Notice  
April 23 – May 23, 2004

**Manacle Creek – WBID # 0742**  
**Cedar Creek – WBID # 0737**

Callaway and Boone counties, Mo.

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



# 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: 1-800-732-2066 (TDD)

JOHN D. HOSKINS, Director

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WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

**REPLY TO:** Columbia Research Center  
1110 S. College Ave.  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Telephone: 573/882-9880  
FAX: 573/882-4517

May 20, 2004

Ms. Anne Peery  
Water Pollution Control Program  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Dear Ms. Peery:

RE: Manacle and Cedar Creek TMDL's

The following are the comments of the Missouri Department of Conservation concerning the draft TMDL for Manacle and Cedar Creek TMDL's are minor and of the editorial nature.

Page 3. A period was omitted at the end of the first full paragraph. In the fourth paragraph, there is a space omitted (i.e. to15-50).

The Department supports efforts by Department of Natural Resources to improve Missouri's aquatic resources and appreciates the opportunity to comment on these TMDLs.

Sincerely,

Leanna Zweig  
Environmental Services Biologist

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June 8, 2004

Ms. Leanna Zweig  
Columbia Research Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
1110 South College Avenue  
Columbia, MO 65201

Dear Ms. Zweig:

Thank you for reviewing the Manacle and Cedar Creek TMDL and taking the time to comment on behalf of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).

We will correct the errors noted by your comments. Thanks for identifying them.

As always, MDC's participation 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 Anne Peery of the Water Protection Program, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176 or by telephone at (573) 526-1426.

Sincerely,

WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM



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

PAS:apj

*Integrity and excellence in all we do*





## Fulton Learn and Serve America Program

1 Hornet Drive Fulton, MO 65251

Phone: 573/642-6258 Fax: 573/592-7401

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Department of Natural Resources  
Water Protection Program, WQMA Section Attn: Anne Peery  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Re: TMDL Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like some clarification on the TMDL Public Comment process. I live in Columbia and work in Fulton, so I drive across Cedar Creek twice daily, and I received a STREAMGRAM about the issue.

I've read over the documents I received in the mail, but I don't understand what it is that you are seeking comments about, exactly. Are there no limits on the amounts of pH and sulfate now? What happens, exactly, if the limits are exceeded? The way I read the plan, it says MO DNR is saying there's no money to finish fixing the problem caused by the former mine, and that the technology is insufficient. If both are true, what is there to comment on? If there is technology, I would ask that the EPA/DNR allocate appropriate funds to address the program to eliminate the source of the pH and Sulfate pollution in the two streams. Why isn't the mining company that caused the problem footing the bill? If not that, then why can't we use federal funds (like the Superfund I have heard about) to pay for it. It seems to me that if the government allows polluters to cause the problem, then the government should be responsible for fixing it.

A comment on the process: I've been involved with Stream Teams 1089 in Callaway and 1319 in Boone for many years now. I "get" water quality, but I can barely make heads or tails of the TMDL documents. I am concerned that the average citizen probably understands these less than I do. Is there any way to make these a little more citizen friendly?

This seems like a great topic to share with our students, and I'd like us to be able to explain this process to our Environmental Science students, but I'm not sure I get it enough to do so. Can you provide more guidance?

D. Scott Miniea, Program Director  
A+ Schools/Fulton AmeriCorps/Fulton Learn & Serve America/STARS



## **Fulton Learn and Serve America Program**

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STATE OF MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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June 14, 2004

Mr. D. Scott Miniea  
Program Director  
Fulton Learn and Serve America Program  
1 Hornet Drive  
Fulton, MO 65251

Dear Mr. Miniea:

Thank you for your interest and concern about the health of Manacle and Cedar Creeks. Water quality is one of the most pressing issues facing our state. That's why we rely on citizen interest, participation and suggestions to help us manage our resources effectively.

One of the ways we keep the public informed is by sharing our works-in-progress and asking the public to comment on these projects. We respond to all the comments we receive during this public notice period. We consider, include and act on comments we receive that are relevant to the issue and decisions at hand.

The department's mission has been clearly defined by the legislature: protect and preserve the waters of the state. One of the ways we do this is through the TMDL process. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document functions primarily as a tool we use to communicate scientific information about a waterbody to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A TMDL is a calculation of the amount of a given pollutant a waterbody can absorb before its quality is affected. That sounds like a mouthful, but think of it like this: when you don't feel well, you often take your temperature. If it's above 98.6, you generally take steps to bring your fever down to normal. A TMDL works the same way. It tells us something is wrong with a body of water and indicates a course of treatment to fix the problem. To extend that health analogy a little further, if you only have a cold, you might need a doctor but it's unlikely that you will need an operation. Another option is to wait and see if you get better on your own. In either case, it's sensible to make sure exactly what the problem is before investing money on a remedy that might not be needed or might not work.

For these waterbodies, it seemed prudent for us to further monitor the situation before taking action. And, at this point, we are still diagnosing the problems with pH and sulfate in Manacle and Cedar Creeks. This particular TMDL is our scientists' way of telling EPA's scientists where we are at in that process.

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D. Scott Miniea  
Page Two

You're right, TMDLs are technical documents about complicated, complex topics. To prevent misunderstandings, we have to make certain assumptions about the level of knowledge of our target audience---in this case, the EPA. They are not our only audience, but they are our main one, so it's important that we speak a language they understand. By necessity, the nuts and bolts of any profession uses shorthand and jargon to communicate with members. However, we try very hard to match the message with the audience.

Regarding your other suggestions, the Clean Water Act doesn't set standards for runoff from nonpoint sources such as the mines in this area. And, the law does not give us the regulatory power to require the previous owners to clean up the site retroactively. Finally, Superfund deals with waters polluted by hazardous substances. Neither sulfate nor pH are considered hazardous to human health. These pollutants are being addressed in the TMDL because of their impact to aquatic life in the stream.

I appreciate your interest and efforts in helping us protect our environment. The Stream Team volunteers have made an enormous difference in the health of our water resources. Thank you for taking the time to be involved with these important issues. We'd be more than happy to speak with your students about the challenges of water resource protection. Contact me at the Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or by telephone at (573) 751-6623 to set up a date and time. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM



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

PAS:apj