

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bob Holden, Governor • Stephen M. Mahfood, Director

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December 10, 2003

Ms. Cheryl Crisler
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region VII
901 North Fifth Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

Re: TMDL for Middle Fork, Tributary to Middle Fork and West Fork Tebo Creeks and
Proposal for East Fork Tebo Creek De-listing

Dear Ms. Crisler:

Enclosed please find a copy of the total maximum daily load (TMDL) study for Middle Fork, Tributary to Middle Fork and West Fork Tebo Creeks in Henry County, Missouri. We have received and reviewed your comments on the draft TMDL document and have edited it in response to those comments. The TMDL was placed on public notice from October 24 to November 23, 2003. Public comments were received and reviewed, and the document was adjusted where appropriate. All public comments received and Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (MoDNR) response letters are on file with MoDNR. We now submit this document as a final TMDL for review and approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 303(d)(2) of the federal Clean Water Act.

The Middle Fork, Tributary to Middle Fork and West Fork Tebo Creeks TMDL was developed by the MoDNR, Water Pollution Control Program, to address the pH (Tributary to Middle Fork Tebo Creek) and sulfate (Middle Fork, Tributary to Middle Fork and West Fork of Tebo Creek) impairment of this water, as identified on the 1998 section 303(d) list. This impairment has been determined to come from abandoned mine land. The TMDL will be implemented by reclamation work already done by MoDNR's Land Reclamation Program and other reclamation work as determined by monitoring as funds and programs allow.



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Ms. Cheryl Crisler
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East Fork Tebo Creek was listed on the 1998 303(d) list for pH impairment from the Triple Tipple Abandoned Mine Land area. When the draft 2002 303(d) list was produced, with its associated timelines for usable data, 14 pH observations had been recorded at Site 1282/10.4 within the impaired segment. Two of these measurements were less than the 6.5 standard units (SU) water quality standard. These data indicated that East Fork Tebo Creek was not meeting the pH standard fourteen (14%) percent of the time. EPA guidelines recommend listing waters as impaired if pH values exceed water quality standards more than ten (10%) percent of the time, therefore, East Fork Tebo Creek remained on the draft 2002 303(d) list. Since then, the department has obtained three additional years of water quality data on East Fork Tebo Creek. Seventeen (17) pH observations have been recorded since the initial draft of the 2002 303(d) list was submitted to the EPA. Those observations have noted only one sample (6/10/03, pH = 6.4 SU) was lower than the water quality standard. The entire dataset now comprises thirty-one (31) observations; with only three (3) less than 6.5 SU. These data indicate that East Fork Tebo Creek is meeting the pH water quality standard more than ninety (90%) percent of the time. EPA guidelines recommend listing waters for non-attainment using a percent exceedence, therefore, waters achieving water quality standards greater than 90% of the time can be de-listed, using that same criteria. The department no longer considers East Fork Tebo Creek to be impaired due to low pH as it is exceeding standards less than ten percent (<10%) of the time. Monitoring will continue to ensure that water quality is being maintained and protected in East Fork Tebo Creek. See East Fork Tebo Creek data in Appendix A for water quality data indicating that water quality standards are being met.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Shannon at (573) 751-7428 or by mail at Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program, P. O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176.

Sincerely,

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM



Jim Hull
Director

JH:gwd

Enclosures

c: William Bryan, AGO