

STATE OF MISSOURI Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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SEP 29 2008

Mr. John DeLashmit
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VII
901 North Fifth Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

RE: Submittal of Total Maximum Daily Loads for Big River (WBIDs 2074 and 2080), Flat River Creek (WBID 2168) and Shaw Branch (WDIB 2170)

Dear ~~Mr. DeLashmit~~ *John,*

Enclosed please find a copy of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Big River (two segments), Flat River Creek and Shaw Branch in St. Francois County, Missouri. The TMDL was first public noticed from December 20, 2006 through January 19, 2007. We received and reviewed your comments on the draft TMDL document and have edited it appropriately. Other comments were received and the TMDL document was adjusted somewhat in response. As a result of these comments and subsequent changes to the TMDL document, it was again placed on public notice from September 24, 2007 to October 24, 2007. Comments were received but no adjustments to the TMDL document were needed. The comment letters received and the department's response letters are enclosed. We now submit this document as a final TMDL for review and approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region VII pursuant to Section 303(d)(2) of the Federal Clean Water Act.

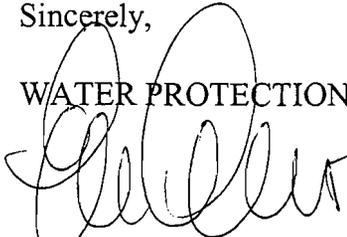
The Big River TMDL was developed by the department's Water Protection Program to address the lead and sediment impairments of these waterbodies, as identified in Missouri's 2002 303(d) list. Flat River Creek was also listed for zinc. These impairments arise from mining waste placed in large tailings piles that erode and leach into the river. The TMDL will be implemented through permit action, Superfund remediation work in the old mined areas and a citizen watershed group.

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We appreciate EPA taking prompt action on this TMDL. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. John Hoke at (573) 526-1446 or by mail at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Sincerely,

WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Galbraith', written over the typed name below.

Edward Galbraith
Director

EG:jhl

Enclosures

c: Mr. Robert Brundage, Newman, Comley and Ruth, P.C.
Ms. Kathleen Logan Smith, Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Mr. Daniel R. Schuette, Director, DEQ
Mr. Earl Pabst, Deputy Director, DEQ
Missouri Clean Water Commission