



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

July 25, 2005

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WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. Doyle Childers
Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
1101 Riverside Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Mr. Childers:

RE: Mutual Agreement between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources
and the United States Environmental Protection Agency on the Missouri
Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

This letter documents mutual agreement between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in regard to the state's voluntary nutrient criteria development plan, entitled *Nutrient Criteria Plan (Plan)*, submitted to EPA on May 4, 2005.

Nutrient over-enrichment of waters of the nation is a serious problem, but determination of appropriate levels for protection is very complex. Implementation of that protection will be challenging. EPA recognizes that this plan represents considerable effort undertaken by the state to address this issue. We appreciate the close cooperation of your staff with EPA, Region 7 in developing the state's plan, and your continued support of their participating in our Regional Technical Advisory Group (RTAG). The achievement of mutual agreement on your plan reflects the success of that process.

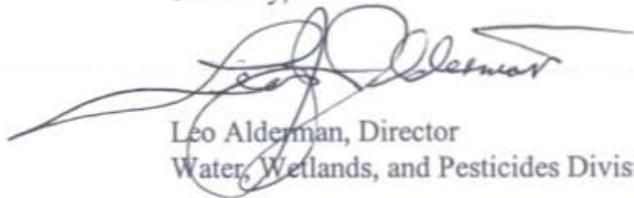
By this agreement, EPA is acknowledging that this plan reflects a reasonable course of action by which the state can proceed to develop numeric nutrient criteria. This agreement does not constitute an approval of state water quality standards. EPA's agreement at this time does not reflect an in-depth review or a judgment that the resulting criteria will be protective and consistent with the Clean Water Act.

According to the time-line projected in your plan, we will expect you to submit numeric water quality standards for nutrients for associated water body types to EPA for approval during the respective Triennial Reviews. In the interim, we request that the state provide updates to EPA to document progress according to the plan through the established state end-of-year review process. In the event that the plan needs to be revised, changes can be made with mutual agreement, and EPA will update this letter to document our agreement with the revisions.

Thank you for making such a significant commitment of time and resources toward completion of this endeavor. We are very pleased with the quality of your plan, and appreciate your efforts to prepare and submit it in a timely manner. We look forward to future collaboration and MDNR's contributions to the Region 7 nutrient criteria development effort.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Missouri Water Quality Standards Coordinator on my staff, Bonnie Liscek at 913-551-7508; or the Region 7 Nutrient Coordinator, Gary Welker at 913-551-7177.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo Alderman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Leo Alderman, Director
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

cc: Mark Osborn, MDNR
Phil Schroeder, MDNR
Ed Galbraith, MDNR