



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

Mr. Ed Tormey, Division Administrator
Environmental Services Division
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace Building
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Mr. Tormey:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed its review of the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of Impaired Waters still requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads, which was submitted as part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' 2020 Integrated Report. This report consists of the Section 303(d) List of water quality-limited segments still requiring TMDLs and the Section 305(b) Report on the extent of all navigable waters that support the CWA goals. The IR was submitted by the IDNR on February 18, 2021 and received by the EPA the same day.

The IDNR's Integrated Report submittal included:

- 1) A letter identifying the submittal as Iowa's 2020 Integrated Report
- 2) A partial Integrated Report for 2020
- 3) The IDNR's 2020 assessment and listing methodology
- 4) The IDNR's final 2020 CWA, Section 303(d) List of impaired waters
- 5) A summary of waters removed from Iowa's 2018 Section 303(d) List
- 6) A public participation responsiveness summary, including copies of all public comments and responses

The IDNR's Section 303(d) List submission contains five separate categories of listing waters, with Category 5 waters indicating water quality-limited segments still requiring TMDLs subject to the EPA's approval. There are 585 water body segments and 778 water body/pollutant combinations within Category 5 of the IDNR's Section 303(d) List. It is important that the state assess waters in Iowa in order to evaluate water quality-limited segments. The EPA recommends that the IDNR work with the EPA to complete aquatic surveys of water bodies with limited biological data in order to identify water quality-limited segments in these watersheds, with an emphasis on those that may be impacted by animal feeding operations.

Based on its review, the EPA has determined that the IDNR's list of water quality-limited segments and their impairments still requiring TMDLs meets the requirements of CWA Section 303(d) and the EPA's implementing regulations. The EPA is therefore approving the 2020 Iowa CWA Section 303(d) List.



I congratulate you and your staff for the completion of the list development and submission process. This process requires a significant amount of staff resources and involves a complex evaluation and assessment of water quality data. We look forward to working with the IDNR on the development of the 2022 Section 303(d) List in the near future.

If you would like to further discuss the EPA's action, please contact me at (913) 551-7146, or Chelsea Paxson, of my staff, at (913) 551-7609.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Robichaud
Director
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Kayla Lyon, Director, IDNR
Lori McDaniel, IDNR, Water Quality Bureau
Roger Bruner, IDNR, Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Section
Daniel Kendall, IDNR, Ambient Lake Monitoring Coordinator