



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

DEC 19 2013

Shellie Chard-McClary
Director, Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
707 North Robinson Avenue
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677

Dear Ms. Chard-McClary:

Re: EPA Action on the Oklahoma 2012 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List

Thank you for your September 20, 2013 submission of Oklahoma's 2012 Clean Water Act Sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314 Integrated Report and list of water quality limited segments. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the submission and supporting documentation and determined that the 2012 Section 303(d) list meets the requirements of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations. By this action, EPA approves the state's 2012 Section 303(d) list of water quality segments and associated pollutants still needing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and the associated priority rankings for development of TMDLs.

EPA is neither approving nor disapproving the state's omission of 3 waters from the 2012 Section 303(d) list. The state elected to not place Lee Creek, Little Lee Creek, and Little River (Mountain Fork) on the 2012 Section 303(d) list for total phosphorus. EPA remains concerned about the apparent incongruity between the state's water quality standards and its assessment protocols for the evaluation of total phosphorus data in waters designated as "Scenic Rivers". EPA believes this incongruity could potentially lead to conflicting findings when evaluating designated use support for these waters. EPA recommends that communications continue between EPA and the state on resolution of this issue through minor revisions to the state's water quality standards and assessment protocols. It is the goal of EPA that an agreement may be reached on this issue prior to the completion of the 2014 Section 303(d) list.

The approved Oklahoma 2012 Section 303(d) List includes 657 waterbody segments and 1199 segment-pollutant pairs. A detailed discussion of EPA's action is included in the record of decision enclosed with this letter.

Thank you again for your efforts in developing Oklahoma's 2012 Section 303(d) list and for your cooperation in addressing EPA's concerns. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-3787 or Charlie Howell at (214) 665-8354.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. K. Honker', written in a cursive style.

William K. Honker, P.E.

Director

Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures: Record of Decision