



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

APR 11 2013

Butch Tongate, Chairman  
New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission  
Harold Runnels Building (N2153)  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

Dear Mr. Tongate:

I am pleased to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency) has completed its review of the ***Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters 20.6.4. NMAC***. Revisions to New Mexico's water quality standards were adopted by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission after holding hearings on September 14-17 and October 12-14, 2010. EPA initiated its review of these revisions when they became effective as State law on January, 14, 2011.

EPA has completed its review and is approving the new or revised water quality standards contained in New Mexico's Water Quality Standards sections 20.6.4.7, 20.6.4.8, 20.6.4.9 NMAC and New Mexico's Continuing Planning Process - Appendix A, as consistent with the requirements of the CWA and EPA's implementing regulations at 40 CFR 131. In approving, we have described how EPA interprets these new and revised standards in the enclosed Technical Support Document (TSD). In acting on these revised water quality standards, EPA is fulfilling its CWA Section 303(c) responsibilities. Consultation pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on these provisions are not required, consistent with the ESA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402.3.

I appreciate both the Commission's and the New Mexico Environment Department's efforts in the development of these revisions of the New Mexico's water quality standards and the Continuing Planning Process document. I also appreciate the cooperative and constructive way in which the Environment Department staff has worked with my staff during the revision process and look forward to working with you to refine these provisions. If you need additional detail concerning this letter and TSD, please call me at (214) 665-7101, or have staff contact Russell Nelson at (214) 665-6646.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.K. Honker".

William K. Honker, P.E.  
Director  
Water Quality Protection Division