



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

September 23, 2016

Mr. Butch Tongate, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RE: Approval of the *Total Maximum Daily Load for the Lower Pecos River*

Dear Mr. Tongate:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has received the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's request for EPA review and approval of the final document titled *Total Maximum Daily Load for the Lower Pecos River* (henceforth, 'Final Report'). NMED electronically submitted the final document and submission letter to EPA on September 19, 2016. Along with the electronic submission, the official paper documents were mailed to EPA Region 6. The Final Report includes total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for *E. coli* for two assessment units on the Pecos River.

Based on our review, we conclude that the TMDLs contained in the Final Report meet the requirements found in Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations found at 40 CFR § 130.7. The EPA is pleased to approve the TMDLs contained in the Final Report as summarized in the enclosed table. The EPA also acknowledges that these TMDLs will be incorporated as updates to the State of New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the SWQB, and we commend you and your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or Miranda Hodgkiss of my staff at (214) 665-7538.

Sincerely,

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

William K. Honker, P.E.

Director

Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Shelly Lemon, NMED, Acting Surface
Water Quality Bureau Chief

John Verheul, NMED
Office of General Counsel

Enclosure: Summary Table for the *Total Maximum Daily Load for the Lower Pecos River*

Summary Table: TMDL Allocations					
Pollutant	Flow condition	TMDL	WLA	LA	MOS
		(cfu/100 mL/day)			
Pecos River (TX Border to Black River) 20.6.4.201, NM-2201_00					
<i>E. coli</i>	High	1.10×10^{12}	0	9.9×10^{11}	1.10×10^{11}
	Moderate	1.73×10^{11}	0	1.56×10^{11}	1.73×10^{10}
	Low	4.01×10^{10}	0	3.61×10^{10}	4.01×10^9
Pecos River (Black River to Six Mile Dam Lake): 20.6.4.202, NM-2202.A_00					
<i>E. coli</i>	High	7.53×10^{11}	0	6.78×10^{11}	7.53×10^{10}
	Moderate	1.24×10^{11}	0	1.12×10^{11}	1.24×10^{10}
	Low	3.10×10^{10}	0	2.79×10^{10}	3.10×10^9