



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

June 16, 2016

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

RE: Approval of the *Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Upper Rio Puerco Watershed*

Dear Mr. Flynn:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's (SWQB) request for EPA review and approval of the final document titled *Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Upper Rio Puerco Watershed* (henceforth, 'Final Report'). The Final Report includes total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for total aluminum, uranium, turbidity, and sedimentation.

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 black ink, appearing to read "WK Honker", is positioned above the typed name.

William K. Honker, P.E.

Director

Water Division

Enclosure

cc: James Hogan, NMED, Surface Water Quality Bureau Chief
Meghan Bell, NMED, TMDL Coordinator
Rachel Jankowitz, TMDL Coordinator
John Verheul, NMED, Office of General Counsel

Enclosure: Summary Table for the *Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Upper Rio Puerco Watershed*

Table 1: TMDL Allocations				
Pollutant	TMDL	WLA	LA	MOS
	(lbs/day)			
La Jara Creek (Perennial reaches above Arroyo San Jose) 20.6.4.109, NM-2107.A_46				
Total aluminum, chronic	4.88	0	3.90	0.98
Total aluminum, acute	12.17	0	9.74	2.43
Nacimiento Creek (Perennial part Hwy 126 to San Gregorio reservoir) 20.6.4.109, NM-2107.A_42				
TSS ^a	Duration (consecutive hrs)			
	720	23.56	0	20.03
	336	25.78	0	21.91
	168	28.30	0	24.06
	144	28.97	0	24.62
	120	29.63	0	25.19
	96	31.87	0	27.09
	72	34.25	0	29.11
Total aluminum, chronic	3.73	0	2.98	0.75
Total aluminum, acute	9.33	0	1.87	1.46
Uranium	53×10^{-3}	0	45.1×10^{-3}	7.95×10^{-3}
Rio Puerco (Perennial part northern bnd Cuba to headwaters) 20.6.4.109, NM-2107.A_44				
Sedimentation	88.6	0	75.3	13.3

^a Total suspended solids (TSS) are being used as a surrogate for turbidity.