



**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' 2022 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 Iowa DNR on April 1, 2022, and received by the EPA the same day. Additional information was requested by the EPA and a final version of Category 5 waters was submitted by the Iowa DNR on April 11, 2022. The EPA's decision applies to this final submittal.

The Iowa DNR's IR submittal included:

- 1) A letter identifying the submittal as Iowa's 2022 IR
- 2) A complete 2022 IR, including sections for 305(b)
- 3) The Iowa DNR's 2022 assessment and listing methodology
- 4) The Iowa DNR's final 2022 CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired waters
- 5) A summary of waters removed from Iowa's 2020 section 303(d) list
- 6) The Iowa DNR's TMDL Vision Strategy for prioritizing impaired waters for restoration
- 7) External data pertinent to Iowa DNR's assessment and listing decisions
- 8) A public participation responsiveness summary, including copies of all public comments and state responses

The Iowa DNR'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 597 water body segments and 735 water body/pollutant combinations within Category 5 of the Iowa DNR'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 Iowa DNR work with the EPA to complete aquatic surveys of water bodies with limited data in order to identify water quality-limited segments in these watersheds.

Based on its review, the EPA has determined that the Iowa DNR'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 2022 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 Iowa DNR on the development of the 2024 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

cc: Kayla Lyon, Iowa DNR
Lori McDaniel, Iowa DNR
Eric Wiklund, Iowa DNR