



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
3/15/2010

Richard Eskin, Ph.D., Director
Technical and Regulatory Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 540
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

Dear Dr. Eskin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, has reviewed the report *Water Quality Analysis of Eutrophication for the Gwynns Falls Watershed in Baltimore County and Baltimore City, Maryland*, which was submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final review on September 9, 2009.

EPA agrees with MDE that current data show that a nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is not necessary for the Gwynns Falls watershed (MD 02130905). The Gwynns Falls watershed was listed by Maryland on the Section 303(d) List as impaired by nutrients, sediments (1996), bacteria (fecal coliform), and impacts to biological communities (2002). TMDLs for the bacteria and sediment listings were completed in 2006 and 2009, respectively. The listing for impacts to biological communities will be addressed separately at a future date.

The monitoring data collected demonstrated that the Gwynns Falls watershed has met all water quality standards for nutrient loadings. The data presented clearly shows that chlorophyll *a* levels and Dissolved Oxygen concentrations are meeting water quality criteria. Also, results of a Gwynns Falls Biological Stressor Identification analysis did not identify nutrients as a potential stressor or indicate any significant association between current nutrient levels and the degraded biological conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Water Quality Analysis. If you should have any questions, please contact Ms. Helene Drago, TMDL Program Manager, at 215-814-5796.

Sincerely,

John Armstead for

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

cc: Melissa Chatham, MDE-TARSA