



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029  
1/22/2003

Mr. Robin Grove, Director  
Technical & Regulatory Services Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
2500 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Dear Mr. Grove:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III has reviewed the draft final report entitled, "Water Quality Analysis of Eutrophication for Lake Bernard Frank, Montgomery County, MD," submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final Agency review on December 16, 2002.

EPA concurs with MDE's determination that the recent data show that a nutrient total maximum daily load (TMDL) is not necessary for Lake Bernard Frank. Lake Bernard Frank was first listed by Maryland on its 1998 303(d) list of water quality-limited segments as impaired by nutrients, with sources identified as nonpoint.

The monitoring data collected show that Maryland's dissolved oxygen criterion, as interpreted for thermally stratified lakes, is being met for this lake, which is classified as eutrophic according to the "Maryland Water Quality Assessment Report, 1997." The data show that surface DO concentrations do not violate the DO criterion of 5 mg/l. Supporting data from 2001 for nutrients and chlorophyll-*a* show total phosphorus concentrations ranging from 0.01 mg/l to 0.03 mg/l, total nitrogen ranging from 0.46 mg/l to 0.80 mg/l, and chlorophyll-*a* ranging from 5.8 ug/l to 15 ug/l. If in the future evidence suggests that nutrients from the Lake Bernard Frank watershed are contributing to water quality problems, then action will have to be taken.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (215)814-5715 or Mr. Larry Merrill at (215)814-5452.

Sincerely,

*Signed*

Joseph Piotrowski  
Office of Watersheds  
Water Protection Division

