



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
12/18/2003

Richard Eskin, Ph.D., Acting Director
Technical and Regulatory Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 450
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

Dear Dr. Eskin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Final report entitled, "Water Quality Analysis of Sedimentation for Piney Run Reservoir in Carroll County, Maryland," submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final Agency review on November 4, 2003.

EPA concurs with MDE's determination that the recent data show that a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for sediments is not necessary for Piney Run Reservoir. Piney Run Reservoir (listed as "South Branch Patapsco River - Impoundment") was first listed by Maryland on its 1998 Section 303(d) list of water quality-limited segments as impaired by sediments and nutrients. In 2002, Maryland added a biological impairment for Piney Run Reservoir to the Section 303(d) list. This water quality analysis only addresses the sediment impairment. The other impairments are to be addressed at a later date.

The water quality data, sedimentation surveys, and field observations show that Maryland's narrative water quality standards related to sediment impacts are being met for this waterbody. If in the future evidence suggests that sediments from the Piney Run Reservoir watershed are contributing to water quality problems, then action will have to be taken.



If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Susan Sciarratta at 215-814-5733.

Sincerely,

Signed

Dominique Lueckenhoff,
Acting Associate Director
Water Protection Division
Office of Watersheds

cc: Melissa Chatham, MDE -TARSA
Dr. James George, MDE -TARSA