



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
11/10/2003

Richard Eskin, 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 Chromium and Lead for the Liberty Reservoir Impoundment in Baltimore and Carroll Counties, Maryland," submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final Agency review on September 24, 2003.

EPA concurs with MDE's determination that the recent data show that a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for chromium and lead is not necessary for Liberty Reservoir. Liberty Reservoir was first listed by Maryland on its 1996 Section 303(d) list of water quality-limited segments as impaired by chromium, lead, nutrients, and suspended sediments. In 2002, Maryland added fecal coliform, methylmercury, and biological impairments for Liberty Reservoir to the list. MDE developed a mercury TMDL for Liberty Reservoir in 2002. This water quality analysis only addresses the chromium and lead impairments.

The water column data and sediment toxicity evaluation show that Maryland's water quality standards related to chromium and lead are being met for this waterbody. Specifically, the data show that the freshwater aquatic life acute and chronic criteria, and human health criteria for drinking water are being met. The data from 2001 and 2002 for chromium and lead were all found to be below the hardness-adjusted criteria for those metal species. The ranges of water column concentrations were as follows:

- Total Chromium: nondetect to 0.21 ug/l
- Lead: nondetect to 0.041 ug/l

If in the future evidence suggests that chromium and/or lead from the Liberty Reservoir watershed is 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,

/S/

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

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