



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

NOV 03 2016

Mr. D. Lee Currey, Director
Science Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 540
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

Dear Mr. Currey:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, has reviewed the report titled *Water Quality Analysis of Eutrophication for Lake Habeeb, Allegany County, Maryland*, which was submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final review on July 5, 2016. MDE identified Lake Habeeb, (MD-02141002-Lake Habeeb) as impaired by nutrients in 1998, based on sampling that found dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations below the State's numeric criteria of 5.0 mg/L in deeper layers of the lake. In 2000, MDE developed a TMDL for Phosphorus, based on Maryland's interpretation of the criteria at that time.

In 2012, MDE published guidelines for interpreting the DO and chlorophyll a criteria in Maryland's seasonally stratified water-supply reservoirs. MDE collected additional data from Lake Habeeb in 2014 and reassessed the conditions of the lake using the 2012 interpretation of the criteria. Analysis of the data demonstrated that the DO and the chlorophyll a criteria for drinking water impoundments are being achieved and the designated use of the lake is supported.

EPA agrees with MDE's analysis of the data that shows that Lake Habeeb does not have a eutrophication-related water quality impairment. Therefore, a TMDL for nutrients is not necessary and the previously developed TMDL can be withdrawn. Thank you for the opportunity to review the Water Quality Analysis. If you should have any questions, please contact Ms. Maria Garcia, at 215-814-3199.

Sincerely,

Signed

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

cc: Melissa Chatham, MDE-SSA



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