



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
4/16/2001

Dr. Robert Summers, Director
Technical and Regulatory Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
2500 Broenig Highway
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Dear Dr. Summers:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III, has reviewed the report "Water Quality Analysis of Eutrophication of the Savage River, Garrett County, Maryland" which was submitted by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) for final agency review on January 3, 2001.

EPA agrees with MDE that the current data show that a nutrient TMDL is not necessary for the Savage River. The Savage River was listed by Maryland on its 1996 and 1998 Section 303(d) lists as impaired by nutrients and low pH with sources being identified as point, nonpoint, and natural.

The monitoring data collected show that dissolved oxygen concentrations mainly ranged from 6 mg/L to 12 mg/L. The exceptions to the above range were 2 suspect samples and 2 samples with values of 4.5 mg/L and 4.8 mg/L respectively. EPA accepts MDE's approach to apply an EPA approved guidance that allows up to 10 percent exceedances, but only if there are no indications that the designated use is impacted due to the parameter of interest. Total phosphorus concentration's ranged from 0.004-0.2 mg/L and total nitrogen concentrations ranged from 0.4-1.5 mg/L. The surrogate indicator, chlorophyll-a, did not reach levels higher than 4.5 ug/L. EPA agrees with MDE that if in the future evidence suggests that nutrients are contributing to water quality problems, action will have to be taken. MDE should consider these data for the next Section 303(d) list due April 1, 2002.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (215) 814-5715 or Thomas Henry at (215) 814-5752.

Sincerely,

Signed

Joseph Piotrowski
Office of Watersheds
Water Protection Division