

Comment Response Document
Regarding the Western Maryland pH Total Maximum Daily Loads for the
Casselman River, George’s Creek, Savage River, Upper North Branch of the
Potomac River, and Wills Creek Watersheds

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has conducted a public review of the proposed Western Maryland pH Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Casselman River, George’s Creek, Savage River, Upper North Branch of the Potomac River, and Wills Creek Watersheds. The public comment period was open from August 9, 2007 through September 7, 2007. MDE received no written comments.

On April 17, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the “Western Maryland pH TMDLs for the Casselman River, Georges Creek, Savage River, Upper North Branch of the Potomac River, and Wills Creek Watersheds,” developed by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The Department received a discharge permit request requiring the incorporation of two additional mining operations for the approved TMDL documentation, specifically to the Georges Creek and Savage River watersheds. These permits would increase flow and iron loading into the system without causing a violation of the pH water quality standard. Permit requirements ensure that discharges from these facilities do not violate pH water quality. Even though the iron loading associated with these facilities will increase the TMDL and WLA, for the streams in which they discharge, it will not result in any changes to the pH.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has conducted a public review of the Revised Final Western Maryland pH TMDLs for the Casselman River, Georges Creek, Savage River, Upper North Branch of the Potomac River, and Wills Creek Watersheds. The public comment period was open from June 4, 2010 through July 6, 2010. MDE received no written comments.