



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

APR 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 Youghiogheny River Main Stem (Maryland Portion)" 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 Youghiogheny River. The Youghiogheny River was listed by Maryland on its 1996 and 1998 Section 303(d) lists as impaired by nutrients, fecal coliform, suspended sediment, 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 15 mg/L. Total phosphorus concentration's ranged from 0.005-0.075 mg/L and total nitrogen (TN) concentrations mainly ranged from 0.025-0.031 mg/L. The only exception was one sample with a TN concentration of 3.7 mg/L. The surrogate indicator, chlorophyll-a levels ranged from 0-2.5 ug/L, with one value of 6.9 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,

Joseph Piotrowski  
Office of Watersheds  
Water Protection Division

