



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
4/12/2001

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

Dear Dr. Summers:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III, has reviewed the report "Casselman Water Quality Analysis Documentation" which was submitted by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) for final agency review on December 28, 2000.

EPA agrees with MDE that the current data show that a nutrient TMDL is not necessary for the Casselman River. The Casselman River was listed by Maryland on its 1996 and 1998 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 total phosphorus (TP) concentration's mainly ranged from 0.01-0.06 mg/L and total nitrogen (TN) concentrations mainly ranged from 0.1-1.3 mg/L. The exceptions to the above ranges are found in a few samples near wastewater treatment plants (TN = 53 mg/L and TP = 5.4 mg/L). In these areas, MDE data do not support eutrophication problems in the Casselman River nor downstream in Pennsylvania. 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 303(d) list.

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