

March 8, 2001

David Van Wie
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
#17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

SUBJECT: Notification of Approval of Sebasticook Lake TMDL

Dear Mr. Van Wie:

Thank you for your submittal of the Sebasticook Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for total phosphorus. This waterbody is included on Maine's 1998 303(d) list as a high priority for TMDL development to address algae blooms due to excessive nutrient loading.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby approves Maine's February 8, 2001 Sebasticook Lake TMDL. EPA has determined that this TMDL meets the requirements of §303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and of EPA's implementing regulations (40 CFR Part 130). Attached is a copy of our approval documentation.

We are very pleased with the quality of your TMDL submittal. Your staff have done an excellent job of preparing a comprehensive and informative TMDL report, with a useful summary and a commendable response to public comments. We are also impressed with the considerable progress towards water quality achieved over the past twenty years in the Sebasticook watershed (reductions in phosphorus concentration from 200 ppb to 20 ppb), and anticipate continued improvement, guided by this TMDL, in the future. My staff and I look forward to continued cooperation with the ME DEP in exercising our shared responsibility of implementing the requirements under Section 303(d) of the CWA.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Murphy, Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection

cc: David Courtemanch, ME DEP
David Halliwell, ME DEP

In-house distribution:

Jennie Bridge
Alison Simcox
Ann Williams

Steve Silva

C:\Data\FY01\JEB\TMDL\Sebasticook L\Sebapr.wpd