



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
ONE CONGRESS STREET SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

September 12, 2007

Andrew Fisk
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
#17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

SUBJECT: Notification of Approval of Birch Stream TMDL

Dear Mr. Fisk:

Thank you for Maine's submittal of the Birch Stream Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for percent impervious cover (% IC) in the watershed, which serves as a surrogate for the mix of pollutants in stormwater, and for lead (Pb) and zinc (Zn) which serve as surrogates for the array of metals in stormwater. This Class B waterbody is included on Maine's 2004 303(d) list and was prioritized for TMDL development. The purpose of the TMDL is to address impaired aquatic life use from a mix of regulated and unregulated urban stormwater.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby approves Maine's September 4, 2007, Birch Stream TMDLs. EPA has determined that these TMDLs meet 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 public participation evident in the development of this TMDL report, and the cooperation between and among the Department, the City of Bangor, the Bangor International Airport, the Maine Air National Guard, Maine Rivers, and the Senator George Mitchell Center for Environmental & Watershed Research. We appreciate the time and effort on the part of DEP staff to present and explain the new impervious cover approach for TMDL development to interested parties. We commend the City of Bangor for their leadership role in the future development of a long term watershed management plan which will schedule the incremental restoration of Birch Stream and result in improved water quality. 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,

Stephen S. Perkins, Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection

cc (electronic):
David Courtemanch, ME DEP
Melissa Evers, ME DEP