



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

SEP 30 2010

Ms. Lynn J. Tomich Kent
Director
Division of Water
Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617

Re: Approval of Alaska's 2010 Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) List

Dear Ms. Kent:

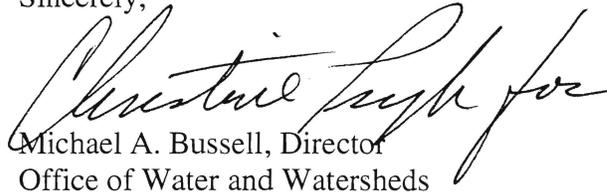
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) submitted their final 2010 Section 303(d) List, including a response to public comment and an Integrated Report on the status of Alaska's waters to EPA on July 21, 2010. The Environmental Protection Agency has conducted a complete review of Alaska's 2010 Section 303(d) List and supporting documentation and information. Based on this review, EPA has determined that Alaska's list of water quality limited segments (WQLSs) still requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and EPA's implementing regulations. Although the Department of Environmental Conservation submitted an Integrated Report on the status of all of Alaska's waters, EPA is acting only on the waters listed in Category 5 of the Integrated Report, which constitutes the 303(d) list. Therefore, EPA hereby approves Alaska's 2010 Section 303(d) list. The statutory and regulatory requirements and EPA's review of Alaska's compliance with each requirement are described in the enclosure to this letter.

As part of EPA's review of waterbodies removed from the 303(d) list, EPA examines whether or not water quality improvements have been achieved. For Category 4b waterbodies, EPA reviews the clean-up plans every listing cycle to determine if water quality standards will be achieved under the pollution controls now in place. If it is determined that the clean-up plans for these waters cannot result in the attainment of water quality standards in a reasonable amount of time, it may be appropriate to move these waters back to Category 5 of the 303(d) list. EPA has reviewed the progress reports for each of the four waters currently listed in 4b and has concluded that satisfactory progress has been made. EPA therefore, approves ADEC's determination to exclude these waters from Category 5.

EPA would like to recognize the work of the staff and managers at ADEC, especially Drew Grant and Cindy Gilder, in developing the final 2010 303(d) List. EPA appreciates the early involvement and opportunity to comment on the preliminary and draft 303(d) lists.

EPA would like to continue to cooperate in this way as we look toward the 2012 303(d) list. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Gable of my staff at (206) 553-2582, or Dave Croxton, Manager, Watershed Unit, at 206-553-6694.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Nancy Sonafrank, ADEC
Ms. Cindy Gilder, ADEC
Mr. Drew Grant, ADEC