



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III**

Four Penn Center  
1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2852

Katheryn Emery, Director  
Division of Water and Waste Management  
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
601 57<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Charleston, West Virginia 25304

Dear Ms. Emery,

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) hereby approves the total iron, dissolved aluminum, manganese, pH, and fecal coliform bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Tug Fork Watershed. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) submitted the report, *Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Tug Fork River Watershed, West Virginia, Final Draft Report* (March 2023) and supporting technical documentation to EPA for review and approval on March 1, 2023. Draft versions of these TMDLs were released for public comment from December 15, 2022, to January 31, 2023. The TMDLs were established to address use impairments as identified on West Virginia's 2016 Section 303(d) List.

The TMDLs were established and submitted in accordance with Sections 303(d)(1)(c) and 303(d)(2) of the Clean Water Act. Our review indicates that the load and wasteload allocations in the submitted TMDLs have been established at levels necessary that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards addressed by these TMDLs. A copy of EPA's rationale for approval is enclosed.

As you are aware, any new or revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits must be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL wasteload allocations pursuant to 40 CFR §122.44 (d)(1)(vii)(B). Please continue to submit all such permits to EPA for review as per EPA's letters dated September 29, 1998, and July 7, 2009.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 215-814-2737 or have your staff contact Ms. Leah Ettema, West Virginia TMDL Coordinator, at 215-814-2166 or [ettema.leah@epa.gov](mailto:ettema.leah@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Libertz, Director  
Water Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Mindy Neil, WVDEP (via email)  
Mr. Nick Murray, WVDEP (via email)