



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



PAUL MERCER
COMMISSIONER

May 9, 2017

Ms. Samantha Dravis, Associate Administrator
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1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
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Ms. Mandy Gunasekara, Senior Policy Advisor
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Ms. Brittany Bolen, Deputy Associate
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Mr. Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
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Ms. Sarah Greenwalt, Senior Counsel
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Dear Ms. Dravis, Ms. Bolen, Ms. Greenwalt, Ms. Gunasekara, and Mr. Jackson:

It is my understanding that EPA is reviewing petitions from the Governor of the State of Maine (dated February 27, 2017) and from the Town of Baileyville, Maine, Verso Corporation, and Woodland Pulp LLC (dated March 6, 2017), which collectively ask EPA to withdraw EPA's letter actions regarding Maine dated February 2, 2015, March 16, 2015, and June 5, 2015 (with the exception of EPA's recognition of Maine's statewide environmental regulatory jurisdiction and authority over all waters, including tribal waters), approve Maine's existing water quality standards for all applicable tribal waters, and undertake all necessary steps to repeal EPA's final rule on Maine's water quality standards, 81 Fed. Reg. 92466 (Dec. 19, 2016). These issues are important for our state, and I respectfully request that EPA approve and undertake all relief requested by the petitions.

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Letter to S. Dravis, B. Bolen, S. Greenwalt, M. Gunasekara, and R. Jackson
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As you may know, EPA recently requested a stay of Maine's appeal of EPA's February 2, 2015 letter action that is pending in the United States District Court for the District of Maine, No. 14-cv-00264-JDL. EPA staff may at some point want to consider discussing the relief requested by the petitions, which could be facilitated by counsel. I appreciate your attention to these important Maine matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Mercer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Mercer
Commissioner