



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

MAY 22 2017

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Stephanie Groen, Director
Office for State-Federal Relations
State of Iowa
400 North Capitol Street, Suite 359
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Groen:

I am writing to follow-up on Doug Hoelscher's letter of January 29, 2017, regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision on Iowa's Antidegradation Water Quality Rules.

As promised in our initial February 13th response, the EPA career leadership in the Office of Water in Washington, D.C. and in Region 7 engaged Administrator Pruitt's team earlier in April.

In the EPA's decision letter of January 19th, the agency provided several options to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources that would result in Iowa's approach being approvable consistent with the Clean Water Act, including providing data from past alternatives analyses in the state to justify use of the 115 percent cost cap, given the specific circumstances in Iowa. The EPA is requesting to meet with the IDNR to discuss submittal of information to the agency providing the EPA the opportunity to consider new or additional supporting documentation, allowing for thorough review and consideration consistent with the CWA and Administrative Procedures Act.

Renewed discussion between the EPA and the IDNR may also present other options to provide the regulated community with the certainty envisioned by the Iowa's Antidegradation Water Quality Rules. Additionally, such discussions will ensure that the IDNR's submittal contains all of the information necessary for a timely and definitive evaluation.

The IDNR and EPA Region 7 have worked closely together on this issue. We remain committed to working with you in accomplishing the state's interest in applying the law consistently and transparently.

The EPA values the important work of the professionals at the IDNR. If you have any further questions, please contact myself or Karen Flournoy, Acting Regional Deputy Administrator, at (913) 551-7782.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Chu
Acting Regional Administrator

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