



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
12/2/2004

Richard Eskin, Ph.D., Director
Technical and Regulatory Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 450
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

Dear Dr. Eskin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Final report entitled, "Water Quality Analysis of Copper and Lead for the Jones Falls in Baltimore County and Baltimore City, Maryland," submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final Agency review on September 29, 2004.

EPA concurs with MDE's determination that the recent data show that a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for copper and lead is not necessary for the Jones Falls 8-digit basin. The Jones Falls (basin code 02-13-09-04) was first listed by Maryland on its 1996 Section 303(d) list of water quality-limited segments as impaired by chlordane (in Lake Roland, an impoundment on Jones Falls), nutrients, sediments, lead, zinc and copper. In 2002, Maryland added a PCB in fish tissue impairment for Lake Roland to the Section 303(d) list. In 2002, Maryland also added fecal coliform and biological impairments for Jones Falls. This water quality analysis only addresses the copper and lead impairments. Maryland completed a TMDL for chlordane in 2001 and a water quality analysis for zinc in 2003. The other impairments are to be addressed at a later date.

EPA also concurs with MDE's determination that the lower most 12-digit basin of the Jones Falls (basin code 02-13-09-04-10-32) continues to exhibit an impairment for copper. However, EPA believes that MDE's water quality analysis does not show that this 12-digit basin is not impaired for lead, and that further monitoring data would be needed in order to support the removal of this sub-basin from the Section 303(d) list for the lead impairment. Please refer to EPA's August 30, 2004 comment letter to MDE for further details. Therefore, this 12-digit basin should remain on Maryland's Section 303(d) list for both the copper and lead impairments unless and until additional data demonstrate otherwise.



If in the future evidence suggests that metals from the Jones Falls watershed are contributing to water quality problems, then action will have to be taken. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Susan Sciarratta at 215-814-5733.

Sincerely,

Signed

Dominique Lueckenhoff,
Associate Director
Water Protection Division
Office of Watersheds

cc: Melissa Chatham, MDE -TARSA

