



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
8/26/2009

Richard Eskin, Ph.D., Director
Technical and Regulatory Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 540
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

Dear Dr. Eskin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, has reviewed the report "Water Quality Analysis of Eutrophication for the Little Gunpowder Falls Basin in Baltimore and Harford Counties, Maryland" which was submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final review on January 16, 2009.

EPA agrees with MDE that current data show that a nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is not necessary for Little Gunpowder Falls watershed. Little Gunpowder Falls watershed was listed by Maryland on its Section 303(d) list as impaired by nutrients (1996), heavy metals (1996), and impact to biological communities (2006).

The monitoring data collected demonstrated that Little Gunpowder Falls watershed has met all water quality standards for nutrient loadings. The data presented clearly shows that excessive algal growth, as indicated by low chlorophyll *a* levels and high Dissolved Oxygen concentrations, does not exist in Little Gunpowder Falls watershed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Water Quality Analysis. If you should have any questions, please contact Ms. Helene Drago, TMDL Program Manager, at 215-814-5796.

Sincerely,

/S/

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

cc: Melissa Chatham, MDE-TARSA