

#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 0 1 2006



REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

WW-16J

Martha Clark Mettler, Chief Watershed Planning Branch Office of Water Quality Indiana Department of Environmental Management 100 North Senate Ave. P.O. Box 6015 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6015

Dear Ms. Mettler:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has conducted a complete review of the final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) submittal for *E. coli*, including supporting documentation and information, for the waterbody segments (ID's: INW01G4\_T1095, INW01G5\_T1096, and INW01G5\_00) in the Lambs Creek watershed located in Morgan County, Indiana. Based on this review, U.S. EPA has determined that Indiana's TMDLs for one pollutant (*E. coli*) for these three waterbody segments meet the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and U.S. EPA's implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 130. Therefore, by this letter, U.S. EPA hereby approves three TMDLs for the Lambs Creek watershed. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and U.S. EPA's review of Indiana's compliance with each requirement, are described in the enclosed decision document.

We appreciate your hard work in this area and the submittal of the TMDLs as required. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kevin Pierard, Chief of the Watersheds and Wetlands Branch at 312-886-4448.

Sincerely yours,

Jo Lynn Traub,

Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc:

Andrew Pelloso, IDEM

Alan Walts, ORC, EPA

e de la companya de l

TMDL: Lambs Creek Watershed (Morgan County), Indiana

Effective Date: March 1, 2006

# DECISION DOCUMENT LAMBS CREEK WATERSHED TMDL

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and EPA's implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 130 describe the statutory and regulatory requirements for approvable TMDLs. Additional information is generally necessary for EPA to determine if a submitted TMDL fulfills the legal requirements for approval under Section 303(d) and EPA regulations, and should be included in the submittal package. Use of the verb "must" below denotes information that is required to be submitted because it relates to elements of the TMDL required by the CWA and by regulation. Use of the term "should" below denotes information that is generally necessary for EPA to determine if a submitted TMDL is approvable. These TMDL review guidelines are not themselves regulations. They are an attempt to summarize and provide guidance regarding currently effective statutory and regulatory requirements relating to TMDLs. Any differences between these guidelines and EPA's TMDL regulations should be resolved in favor of the regulations themselves.

# 1. Identification of Waterbody, Pollutant of Concern, Pollutant Sources, and Priority Ranking

The TMDL submittal should identify the waterbody as it appears on the State's/Tribe's 303(d) list. The waterbody should be identified/georeferenced using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), and the TMDL should clearly identify the pollutant for which the TMDL is being established. In addition, the TMDL should identify the priority ranking of the waterbody and specify the link between the pollutant of concern and the water quality standard (see section 2 below).

The TMDL submittal should include an identification of the point and non-point sources of the pollutant of concern, including location of the source(s) and the quantity of the loading, e.g., lbs/per day. The TMDL should provide the identification numbers of the NPDES permits within the waterbody. Where it is possible to separate natural background from non-point sources, the TMDL should include a description of the natural background. This information is necessary for EPA's review of the load and wasteload allocations, which are required by regulation.

The TMDL submittal should also contain a description of any important assumptions made in developing the TMDL, such as:

- (1) the spatial extent of the watershed in which the impaired waterbody is located;
- (2) the assumed distribution of land use in the watershed (e.g., urban, forested, agriculture);
- (3) population characteristics, wildlife resources, and other relevant information affecting the characterization of the pollutant of concern and its allocation to sources;
- (4) present and future growth trends, if taken into consideration in preparing the TMDL (e.g., the TMDL could include the design capacity of a wastewater treatment facility); and
- (5) an explanation and analytical basis for expressing the TMDL through surrogate measures, if applicable. Surrogate measures are parameters such as percent fines and turbidity for Lambs Creek Watershed TMDL

sediment impairments; chlorophyl  $\underline{a}$  and phosphorus loadings for excess algae; length of riparian buffer; or number of acres of best management practices.

#### Comments:

The submitted TMDL report addresses the *E. coli* impairments affecting the recreational uses in the Lambs Creek watershed located in Morgan County, Indiana. The waterbody segments addressed in this TMDL report were identified on the 2004 Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 303(d) list as 13.79 miles of the Lambs Creek segments (INW01G4\_T1095 and INW01G5\_T1096) and 3.94 miles of the Goose Creek segment (INW01G5\_00) impaired by *E. coli*. This TMDL report only focuses on the restoration of the recreational uses in the Lambs Creek watershed which are impaired by elevated levels of E. coli during the recreational season.

The Lambs Creek watershed (Figure 1 of the final TMDL submittal) forms part of the West Fork White River Basin (HUC 0512201160). The Lambs Creek watershed is impacted by both point and non-point sources. Landuse information obtained in 1992 from the Gap Analysis Program (GAP) indicated that approximately 71% of the landuse in the Lambs Creek watershed was forested, and the remaining landuse consisted of approximately 27% agriculture, 1% wetlands, and 0.21% developed (Figure 3 of the final TMDL submittal report). A comparison of 2003 aerial photos with the 1992 land use information shows that no substantial changes to the Lambs Creek watershed have occurred.

Non-point sources impacting the Lambs Creek watershed include failing septic tanks, small livestock operations, and contaminated run-off from cropland, and animal habitats such as urban park areas and forest. For further information on sources, refer to pages 3-4 of the final TMDL submittal report.

There are no industrial or municipal facility permitted dischargers and no concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) or confined feeding operations (CFOs) in the Lambs Creek watershed. There is one municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in the Lambs Creek watershed.

Most of Indiana's TMDLs are prioritized and scheduled for development based on the State's basin-rotation water quality monitoring schedule. There are some exceptions that deviate from this schedule. These reasons may include the following: whether the designated uses are being met; the magnitude of the impairment; water quality violations relating to pollutant parameters where no EPA guidance is available; and waters where other interested parties (e.g. local watershed groups) are working on alleviating the water quality problem. These TMDLs were scheduled based on the data available from IDEM's basin-rotation schedule.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this first element.

# 2. Description of the Applicable Water Quality Standards and Numeric Water Quality Target

The TMDL submittal must include a description of the applicable State/Tribal water quality standard, including the designated use(s) of the waterbody, the applicable numeric or

narrative water quality criterion, and the antidegradation policy. (40 C.F.R. §130.7(c)(1)). EPA needs this information to review the loading capacity determination, and load and wasteload allocations, which are required by regulation.

The TMDL submittal must identify a numeric water quality target(s) – a quantitative value used to measure whether or not the applicable water quality standard is attained. Generally, the pollutant of concern and the numeric water quality target are, respectively, the chemical causing the impairment and the numeric criteria for that chemical (e.g., chromium) contained in the water quality standard. The TMDL expresses the relationship between any necessary reduction of the pollutant of concern and the attainment of the numeric water quality target. Occasionally, the pollutant of concern is different from the pollutant that is the subject of the numeric water quality target (e.g., when the pollutant of concern is phosphorus and the numeric water quality target is expressed as Dissolved Oxygen (DO) criteria). In such cases, the TMDL submittal should explain the linkage between the pollutant of concern and the chosen numeric water quality target.

#### Comments:

Based upon the data collected, IDEM has determined that the Lambs Creek and Goose Creek waterbody segments are impaired for full body contact recreational use by *E. coli*. The applicable IDEM water quality standard (WQS) that is in use during the recreational season, April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, is found under rule 327 IAC 2-1-6 (d). This rule requires that "*E. coli* bacteria, using membrane filter (MF) count, shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) colony forming units (cfu) per one hundred (100) milliliters as a geometric mean based on not less than five (5) samples equally spaced over a thirty (30) day period, nor exceed two hundred thirty-five (235) cfu per one hundred (100) milliliters in any one (1) sample in a thirty (30) day period." The *E. coli* WQS for Indiana's recreational season is the target for which the TMDLs in the Lambs Creek watershed were developed.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this second element.

# 3. Loading Capacity - Linking Water Quality and Pollutant Sources

A TMDL must identify the loading capacity of a waterbody for the applicable pollutant. EPA regulations define loading capacity as the greatest amount of a pollutant that a water can receive without violating water quality standards (40 C.F.R. §130.2(f)).

The pollutant loadings may be expressed as either mass-per-time, toxicity or other appropriate measure (40 C.F.R. §130.2(i)). If the TMDL is expressed in terms other than a daily load, e.g., an annual load, the submittal should explain why it is appropriate to express the TMDL in the unit of measurement chosen. The TMDL submittal should describe the method used to establish the cause-and-effect relationship between the numeric target and the identified pollutant sources. In many instances, this method will be a water quality model.

The TMDL submittal should contain documentation supporting the TMDL analysis, including the basis for any assumptions; a discussion of strengths and weaknesses in the analytical process; and results from any water quality modeling. EPA needs this information to review the loading capacity determination, and load and wasteload allocations, which are

required by regulation.

TMDLs must take into account *critical conditions* for steam flow, loading, and water quality parameters as part of the analysis of loading capacity (40 C.F.R. §130.7(c)(1)). TMDLs should define applicable *critical conditions* and describe their approach to estimating both point and non-point source loadings under such *critical conditions*. In particular, the TMDL should discuss the approach used to compute and allocate non-point source loadings, e.g., meteorological conditions and land use distribution.

#### Comments:

For most pollutants, TMDLs are expressed on a mass loading basis (e.g. pounds per day). For *E. coli* indicators, however, IDEM determined that mass is not an appropriate measure because *E. coli* is expressed in terms of organism counts (or resulting concentration). Therefore, the loading capacities (TMDLs) for each impaired segment in the Lambs Creek watershed are concentration-based and are equal to the geometric mean *E. coli* WQS of 125 cfu per 100ml as a 30-day geometric mean and 235 cfu per 100ml as a single-sample maximum. The geometric mean *E. coli* WQS allows for the best characterization of the Lambs Creek watershed, and is consistent with rule 327 IAC 2-1-6 (d) and rule 327 IAC 5-2-11.1(b) which describes how the water quality criteria will be applied in determining appropriate water quality-based effluent limitations to NPDES permits.

Water quality *E. coli* load duration curves were created by using IDEM's data from 12 sampling sites in the Lambs Creek watershed (Figure 2 of the final TMDL submittal), in conjunction with continuous flow data obtained from a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage in the West Fork White River (03354000), to show the *E. coli* violations of the single-sample maximum standard and geometric mean standard during both the recreational and non-recreational seasons. The load duration curves analysis indicated that the largest exceedances of the *E. coli* WQS are prevalent during wet weather conditions but that dry weather contributions are also a source of *E. coli* to the Lambs Creek watershed (Attachment B and Attachment C of the final TMDL submittal).

The load duration curve analysis method considers how stream flow conditions relate to a variety of pollutant loadings and their sources (point and non-point). In order to create load duration curves, flow data is first used to create flow duration curves. These curves display the cumulative frequency of distribution of the daily flow for the period of record and reflect a range of natural occurrences from extremely high flows to extremely low flows. A flow duration interval is described as a percentage. Zero (0) percent corresponds to the highest stream discharge (flood condition) and 100 percent corresponds to the lowest discharge (drought condition). The flow duration curves are then transformed to load duration curves by applying water quality criteria values for *E. coli* and appropriate conversion factors. Then the existing monitored water pollutant loads from various types of locations (wet weather/non-point sources, or dry weather/point sources) are added to the curve and other conversion factors are applied. In this way it can be determined which locations contribute loads above or below the water quality standard, or target, line. For further explanation, refer to Page 5 of the final TMDL submittal report.

IDEM has determined that the primary *E. coli* loading sources to the Lambs Creek watershed arise from a mixture of dry and wet weather-driven conditions. Dry weather sources were considered to be those sources that are not run-off dependant, such as failing septics, and

wildlife. Wet weather sources were considered to be contaminated run-off from MS4s, cropland, non-regulated small livestock operations, and animal habitats such as urban park areas and forest. Therefore, there is no single critical condition that would achieve the *E. coli* WQS. The load duration curves represent pollutants during both dry periods and the washoff during storm events. Both of these conditions are critical for the conceptual model in describing how the pollutants behave in a natural environment and were addressed in developing the curves.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this third element.

### 4. Load Allocations (LAs)

EPA regulations require that a TMDL include LAs, which identify the portion of the loading capacity attributed to existing and future non-point sources and to natural background. Load allocations may range from reasonably accurate estimates to gross allotments (40 C.F.R. §130.2(g)). Where possible, load allocations should be described separately for natural background and non-point sources.

#### Comments:

Because these TMDLs are concentration-based, the LAs for each segment are equal to the WQS of 125 *E. coli* per 100ml as a 30-day geometric mean based on not less than 5 samples. The assumption used by the State in this load allocation strategy is that there are equal bacterial loads per unit area for all lands within the watershed. Therefore, IDEM has established that the relative responsibility for achieving the necessary reductions of bacteria and maintaining acceptable conditions will be determined by the amount of land under the jurisdiction of the various local units of government within the watershed.

The relative responsibility for achieving the necessary reductions of bacteria and maintaining acceptable conditions within the county governments and their corresponding portions of the land area in the Lambs Creek watershed has been determined by IDEM as follows: Jefferson Township (55%), Gregg Township (43%), Ashland Township (3%), and Monroe Township (0.27%) (Table 1 and Figure 4 of the final TMDL submittal).

Potential non-point sources contributing to the LAs include failing septics, wildlife, and contaminated run-off from cropland and animal habitats such as urban park areas, and forest. There are also approximately 23 small livestock operations in the Lambs Creek watershed contributing to the LAs. These operations, due to their small size, are not regulated under the CFO or CAFO regulations.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this fourth element.

## 5. Wasteload Allocations (WLAs)

EPA regulations require that a TMDL include WLAs, which identify the portion of the loading capacity allocated to individual existing and future point source(s) (40 C.F.R. §130.2(h), 40 C.F.R. §130.2(i)). In some cases, WLAs may cover more than one discharger, e.g., if the

source is contained within a general permit.

The individual WLAs may take the form of uniform percentage reductions or individual mass based limitations for dischargers where it can be shown that this solution meets WQSs and does not result in localized impairments. These individual WLAs may be adjusted during the NPDES permitting process. If the WLAs are adjusted, the individual effluent limits for each permit issued to a discharger on the impaired water must be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the adjusted WLAs in the TMDL. If the WLAs are not adjusted, effluent limits contained in the permit must be consistent with the individual WLAs specified in the TMDL. If a draft permit provides for a higher load for a discharger than the corresponding individual WLA in the TMDL, the State/Tribe must demonstrate that the total WLA in the TMDL will be achieved through reductions in the remaining individual WLAs and that localized impairments will not result. All permittees should be notified of any deviations from the initial individual WLAs contained in the TMDL. EPA does not require the establishment of a new TMDL to reflect these revised allocations as long as the total WLA, as expressed in the TMDL, remains the same or decreases, and there is no reallocation between the total WLA and the total LA.

#### Comments:

There are no industrial or municipal facility permitted dischargers and no concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the Lambs Creek watershed. There is one municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) community (Morgan County, Permit# INR040099) in the Lambs Creek watershed (see IDEM e-mail dated 2/16/06). Guidelines for the MS4 permits and timelines are outlined in Indiana's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Rule 13 (327 IAC 15-13-10 and 327 IAC 15-13-11).

The WLA will be equal to the WQS of 125 *E. coli* per 100 ml as geometric mean based on not less than 5 samples equally spaced over a thirty-day period from April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Since the WLA are concentration based and must be met under all flows, this is also consistent with the conditions for the control of point sources given under Indiana's rule 327 IAC 5-2-11.1(b) which describes how the water quality criteria will be applied in determining appropriate water quality-based effluent limitations to NPDES permitted point sources.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this fifth element.

#### 6. Margin of Safety (MOS)

The statute and regulations require that a TMDL include a margin of safety (MOS) to account for any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between load and wasteload allocations and water quality (CWA §303(d)(1)(C), 40 C.F.R. §130.7(c)(1)). EPA's 1991 TMDL Guidance explains that the MOS may be implicit, i.e., incorporated into the TMDL through conservative assumptions in the analysis, or explicit, i.e., expressed in the TMDL as loadings set aside for the MOS. If the MOS is implicit, the conservative assumptions in the analysis that account for the MOS must be described. If the MOS is explicit, the loading set aside for the MOS must be identified.

#### Comments:

The Lambs Creek watershed TMDLs for pathogens contains an implicit margin of safety because no rate of decay was used and no adjustments were made for flow conditions. Since pathogenic organisms have a more limited capability of surviving outside their hosts, a rate of decay would normally be used. However, it was determined by IDEM that it is more conservative to apply the water quality standard (WQS) of 125 *E. coli* per 100 ml to all flow conditions, and not to apply a rate of decay which could result in a discharge limit greater than the WQS.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this sixth element.

#### 7. Seasonal Variation

The statute and regulations require that a TMDL be established with consideration of seasonal variations. The TMDL must describe the method chosen for including seasonal variations. (CWA §303(d)(1)(C), 40 C.F.R. §130.7(c)(1)).

### Comments:

Seasonality in the TMDLs is addressed by establishing load allocations applicable to the months of April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> to protect for full body contact as defined in Indiana's *E. coli* WQS for the recreational season under rule 327 IAC 2-1-6 (d). Since the TMDLs are concentration based, this *E. coli* WQS must be met under all flow conditions during the applicable season.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this seventh element.

# 8. Reasonable Assurances

When a TMDL is developed for waters impaired by point sources only, the issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit(s) provides the reasonable assurance that the wasteload allocations contained in the TMDL will be achieved. This is because 40 C.F.R. 122.44(d)(1)(vii)(B) requires that effluent limits in permits be consistent with "the assumptions and requirements of any available wasteload allocation" in an approved TMDL.

When a TMDL is developed for waters impaired by both point and non-point sources, and the WLA is based on an assumption that non-point source load reductions will occur, EPA's 1991 TMDL Guidance states that the TMDL should provide reasonable assurances that non-point source control measures will achieve expected load reductions in order for the TMDL to be approvable. This information is necessary for EPA to determine that the TMDL, including the load and wasteload allocations, has been established at a level necessary to implement water quality standards.

EPA's August 1997 TMDL Guidance also directs Regions to work with States to achieve

TMDL load allocations in waters impaired only by non-point sources. However, EPA cannot disapprove a TMDL for non-point source-only impaired waters, which do not have a demonstration of reasonable assurance that LAs will be achieved, because such a showing is not required by current regulations.

### Comments:

For the point source in the Lambs Creek watershed (Morgan County MS4, Permit# INR040099), IDEM expects that the storm water load impacts will be addressed through the NPDES permit process which includes guidelines for regulating MS4 permits. These guidelines are outlined in Indiana's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Rule 13 (327 IAC 15-13-10 and 327 IAC 15-13-11).

For nonpoint sources, which are the primary cause of *E. coli* impairment in this watershed, IDEM suggests the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) such as Riparian Area Management, Manure Collection and Storage, Contour Row Crops, No-Till Farming, Manure Nutrient Testing, Drift Fences, Pet Clean-up/Education, and Septic Management/Public Education. For further information on these BMPs, refer to page 11of the final TMDL submittal.

In addition, the Morgan County Watershed Initiative (MCWI), which is in the second year of a 319 grant for implementation activities in the Lambs Creek watershed, completed a watershed management plan to bring the north and south sections of Lambs Creek within compliance of the *E. coli* water quality standards with the next six years. The watershed management plan has strategies for dealing with the septic systems issues, identified area for potential buffer strip projects, and livestock management issues.

IDEM has also recently hired a Watershed Specialist for this area of the state. The Watershed Specialist will be available to assist stakeholders with starting a watershed group, facilitating planning activities, and serving as a liaison between watershed planning and TMDL activities in the Lambs Creek watershed.

USEPA finds that this section has been adequately addressed.

#### 9. Monitoring Plan to Track TMDL Effectiveness

EPA's 1991 document, *Guidance for Water Quality-Based Decisions: The TMDL Process* (EPA 440/4-91-001), recommends a monitoring plan to track the effectiveness of a TMDL, particularly when a TMDL involves both point and non-point sources, and the WLA is based on an assumption that non-point source load reductions will occur. Such a TMDL should provide assurances that non-point source controls will achieve expected load reductions and, such TMDL should include a monitoring plan that describes the additional data to be collected to determine if the load reductions provided for in the TMDL are occurring and leading to attainment of water quality standards.

#### Comments:

Future monitoring of the Lambs Creek watershed will take place during IDEM's 5-year rotating basin schedule and/or once TMDL implementation methods are in place. During the 5-year rotating basin schedule, IDEM will monitor the Lambs Creek watershed for *E. coli*. Monitoring will be adjusted as needed to assist in continued source identification and elimination. When

these results indicate that the waterbodies are meeting the *E. coli* WQS, IDEM will monitor at an appropriate frequency to determine if Indiana's 30-day geometric mean value of 125 *E. coli* per 100 ml is being met.

USEPA finds that this section has been adequately addressed.

#### 10. Implementation

EPA policy encourages Regions to work in partnership with States/Tribes to achieve non-point source load allocations established for 303(d)-listed waters impaired by non-point sources. Regions may assist States/Tribes in developing implementation plans that include reasonable assurances that non-point source LAs established in TMDLs for waters impaired solely or primarily by non-point sources will in fact be achieved. In addition, EPA policy recognizes that other relevant watershed management processes may be used in the TMDL process. EPA is not required to and does not approve TMDL implementation plans.

## Comments:

This TMDL report does not contain a formal implementation plan, since it is not required under the current EPA regulations. However, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has identified ongoing activities. These activities have been identified under the reasonable assurance section of this decision document.

USEPA finds that this section has been adequately addressed.

### 11. Public Participation

EPA policy is that there should be full and meaningful public participation in the TMDL development process. The TMDL regulations require that each State/Tribe must subject calculations to establish TMDLs to public review consistent with its own continuing planning process (40 C.F.R. §130.7(c)(1)(ii) ). In guidance, EPA has explained that final TMDLs submitted to EPA for review and approval should describe the State's/Tribe's public participation process, including a summary of significant comments and the State's/Tribe's responses to those comments. When EPA establishes a TMDL, EPA regulations require EPA to publish a notice seeking public comment (40 C.F.R. §130.7(d)(2)).

Provision of inadequate public participation may be a basis for disapproving a TMDL. If EPA determines that a State/Tribe has not provided adequate public participation, EPA may defer its approval action until adequate public participation has been provided for, either by the State/Tribe or by EPA.

#### Comments:

Several stakeholders meetings were held by IDEM to discuss the Lambs Creek watershed TMDLs effort. The meetings were held in Martinsville, Indiana at the Morgan County Public Library on August 30, 2004 and at the Morgan County S&WCD on August 17, 2005. The public comment period for the Lambs Creek watershed TMDLs was initiated on August 10, 2005 and ended on September 12, 2005. Letters noticing the meetings and the public comment period

were sent to key stakeholders in the watershed. Notice of this public comment period was also published in IDEM's State Calendar and copies of the TMDL report were made available on IDEM's website: <a href="http://www.in.gov/idem/water/planbr/wqs/tmdl/documents.html">http://www.in.gov/idem/water/planbr/wqs/tmdl/documents.html</a>. IDEM received no comments to the Lambs Creek watershed TMDLs during the public comment period.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this eleventh element.

#### 12. Submittal Letter

A submittal letter should be included with the TMDL submittal, and should specify whether the TMDL is being submitted for a *technical review* or *final review and approval*. Each final TMDL submitted to EPA should be accompanied by a submittal letter that explicitly states that the submittal is a final TMDL submitted under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for EPA review and approval. This clearly establishes the State's/Tribe's intent to submit, and EPA's duty to review, the TMDL under the statute. The submittal letter, whether for technical review or final review and approval, should contain such identifying information as the name and location of the waterbody, and the pollutant(s) of concern.

#### Comments:

The U.S. EPA received the formal submission of the final *E. coli* TMDLs for the Lambs Creek watershed on January 31, 2006 along with a cover letter from Martha Clark Mettler, Chief of the Watershed Planning Branch, IDEM, dated January 30, 2006. The letter stated that this was a final TMDL submittal under Section 303(d) of the CWA, and identified the impaired waterbody segments, location, and the causes/pollutants of concern. IDEM's submittal letter stated that the Lambs Creek watershed TMDLs address the impairment of *E. coli*.

USEPA finds that the TMDL document submitted by IDEM satisfies all requirements of this twelfth element.

#### 13. Conclusion

After a full and complete review, USEPA finds that the TMDLs for the Lambs Creek watershed satisfy all of the elements of approvable TMDLs. This approval is for 3 waterbody segments impaired by *E. coli* for a total of 3 TMDLs addressing 3 impairments.

Waterbody Name	Segment ID	Pollutant	Impairment
Lambs Creek	INW01G4_T1095	E. coli	E. coli
Lambs Creek	INW01G5_T1096	E. coli	E. coli
Goose Creek	INW01G5_00	E. coli	E. coli