



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

AUG 5 2009

Mr. Kelly Burch, Director
Northwest Regional Office
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335-3481

Re: NPDES Permit No. PA0027511
New Castle WWTP
City of New Castle, Lawrence County

Dear Mr. Burch:

In accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), EPA has reviewed the referenced National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) draft permit received from your office on July 7, 2009. This is a notification of EPA's general objection, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 123.44(b)(1).

This letter serves as a time extension request for the full 90-day review period which will expire on October 5, 2009. EPA requests additional time to discuss and resolve with PADEP concerns regarding the assumptions used to analyze water quality impacts from Total Dissolved Solids (TDS).

EPA had previously provided PADEP with comments concerning the calculations used to determine TDS limits on another draft NPDES permit for a facility that treats brine wastewater. The assumptions used were the same as those used in the New Castle draft permit. It is our understanding that a response from PADEP Central Office would be provided regarding these concerns. It is our hope that these issues can be resolved prior to October.

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 123.44(a)(2), EPA will provide any additional specific comments or objections to the issuance of this permit renewal by October 5, 2009. PADEP is prohibited from issuing the permit renewal for this facility prior to this time without written EPA approval.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or Brian P. Trulear of my staff at (215) 814-5723.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon M. Capacasa", written in a cursive style.

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

cc: Ron Furlan, PADEP Central Office
Ricardo Gilson, PADEP Northwest Office
David Balog, PADEP Northwest Office
Robert Hutchinson, PADEP Northwest Office
Richard Christofer, New Castle Sanitation Authority