



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

Ms. Kelly Jean Heffner, Deputy Secretary
Office of Water Management
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

APR 08 2014

Dear Ms. ^{Kelly} Heffner:

We wanted to provide you with an update of our ongoing assessments of state storm water programs. From 2011 through 2013, EPA performed comprehensive reviews of each of the Region III state stormwater programs. These reviews were conducted as part of the Agency's ongoing oversight responsibilities under the Clean Water Act NPDES program and in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

In July 2011, EPA conducted a review of PADEP's state-wide storm water program and its implementation. As part of this review, EPA conducted field interviews and file reviews at PADEP's Central office, select regional offices and county conservation district offices compiling information related to Pennsylvania's stormwater program throughout the state. As a result of this effort, EPA developed a comprehensive report, which was submitted to PADEP June 8, 2012. The report identified areas where Pennsylvania's stormwater program excelled as well as areas where the program could be strengthened. One elements of the program review was to identify PADEP program areas where improvement was warranted, provide a mechanism for EPA and PADEP to immediately address short-term issues, and to develop a schedule for PADEP to address issues which required additional time to resolve.

We would like to thank PADEP for your cooperation during the assessment. We would also like to further acknowledge the efforts PADEP has undertaken to date to address the findings of this report and to strengthen the Commonwealth's stormwater programs.

To document the effectiveness of the actions that PADEP has taken, EPA intends to conduct a follow-up evaluation of Pennsylvania's storm water program in 2015 in much the same manner. However, the scope of the report will be limited to those areas identified in the Report as areas in need of improvement and, also, MS4 implementation of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. The protocols followed will be similar to the 2011 assessment. We welcome your input as we review and refine the protocols for this next round.



The effective implementation of the storm water program is essential for protecting local waters and the Chesapeake Bay. We look forward to working with you and your staff to assist PADEP in the continued implementation of the Stormwater Program Assessment's recommendations. Please feel free to contact me at 215-814-5422 or David McGuigan of my staff at 215-814-2158 if you would like to further discuss any concerns or have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division