



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Office of The

FEB 02 2015

City Manager

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Susan Hann  
Chair  
Protecting America's Waters Workgroup  
Local Government Advisory Committee  
120 Malabar Road  
Palm Bay, Florida 032907

Dear Ms. Hann:

Thank you for your November 5, 2014, letter conveying the recommendations of the Local Government Advisory Committee's Protecting America's Waters Workgroup regarding the Waters of the U.S. proposed rule developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

All of us at the EPA appreciate LGAC's efforts to provide advice and recommendations on the Waters of the U.S. proposed rule, pursuant to my charge to the LGAC. In the course of four meetings, the Workgroup members heard a cross-section of perspectives from local governments, communities and agricultural groups about the proposed rule. The Workgroup also was presented and had available technical background on the proposed rule and its development. I want to acknowledge the innovative and creative thought that went into developing your recommendations. I can assure you that your report has been circulated extensively within the EPA and with the Corps, and that your recommendations will help guide our work on the final rule to make it the best rule possible.

I also thank you for conveying the Workgroup's recommendations on subjects outside the scope of the Waters of the U.S. proposed rule, including the Interpretive Rule on agricultural exemptions to Clean Water Act section 404 permitting, the Army Corps of Engineers' administration of the Clean Water Act section 404 permitting program, and water quality planning. I recognize the importance of these related issues to local governments and I have directed my staff to discuss these recommendations with both the Corps and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and to consider how we might implement these recommendations through the EPA's programs.

Again, thank you for your leadership of this effort. I can assure you that the LGAC's recommendations will provide critical perspectives for us to consider as we develop a final rule to clarify and strengthen our nation's clean water protections.

Sincerely,

Gina McCarthy

*Thank you!*