



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 27 2015

The Honorable Bob Dixson
Mayor of Greensburg, Kansas
LGAC Chair
300 S Main Street
Greensburg, Kansas 67054

Dear Mayor Dixson: *Bub*

Thank you and the entire LGAC for your incredible work engaging with your state, local, and tribal colleagues across the country on the proposed Clean Water Rule. Your November 2014 report – *Initial Findings and Recommendations Pertaining to EPA's Clean Water Act Waters of the U.S. Proposed Rule* – has truly informed the final Clean Water Rule that the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released today. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy and I are confident that you will see how the final rule is responsive to your recommendations.

Though not taken up in the jurisdictional rule we put out today, your recommendations to streamline the permitting process and encourage state assumption of CWA 404 programs are issues of utmost importance and ripe for addressing in concert with the publication of the final rule. To that end, the EPA will stand up a workgroup of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) to look at state assumption and help the EPA support states and tribes that wish to assume the program. A March 16, 2015, Federal Register Notice asked for interested state participants for that workgroup, and I am hopeful that work will be underway soon.

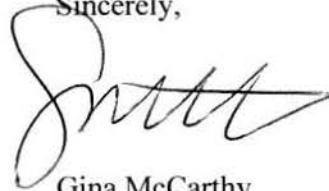
As your report's *Findings and Recommendations* identify, there is still work to be done to faithfully implement this new rule – both internal to EPA, USACE and U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well with our co-regulators at the state, local, and tribal levels, in both urban and rural communities.

Given the imperative for EPA, USACE, local governments, states and tribes to continue to work together in partnership on the Clean Water Rule, I want to once again call on the Local Government Advisory Committee's Protecting America's Waters Workgroup to help with key aspects of implementation. Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, will begin working with you immediately to finalize a charge and develop a workplan that will dovetail with and inform the agencies' overall implementation effort.

I realize how much I ask of the LGAC, and it is not lost on me how much more I am asking. But time and again, you deliver expertise and bring on-the-ground practicality that is critical at moments such as these.

Thank you, again, for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina McCarthy', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Gina McCarthy