

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Commissioner's Office

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Agency of Natural Resources

January 15, 2020

Mr. Mel Cote
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 2109-3912

Dear Mr. Cote,

By this letter, the State of Vermont is transmitting the annual Vermont Clean Water Initiative 2019 Performance Report. Part One of this report documents accomplishments since the passage of the Vermont Clean Water Act for all State clean water funding. Part Two of the report presents the Lake Champlain Progress Report. The Report appendices present information geographically and take stock of progress towards implementation of two of the six Lake Champlain tactical basin plans. This report satisfies multiple State reporting requirements as well as obligations under the Lake Champlain TMDLs Accountability Framework. Specifically presented are:

1. State of Vermont investments in clean water projects statewide and by tactical basin planning watershed.
2. Results of clean water projects installed through state and federal funding programs, including project outputs and estimated nutrient pollutant reductions.
3. Results of water quality regulations driving clean water projects to mitigate nutrient pollution from agriculture, stormwater, and wastewater,
4. Analysis of phosphorus pollutant reductions achieved through implementation of clean water projects in the Vermont portion of the Lake Champlain basin relative to Lake Champlain TMDLs targets by lake segment watershed.
5. Indicators of change in phosphorus loading to Lake Champlain based on monitoring programs, over time when updated data are available.
6. Indicators of variables that affect the ability to meet Lake Champlain phosphorus reduction targets, such as changes in land use, population, livestock animal units, and climate/weather, over time when updated data are available.
7. Status of Lake Champlain TMDLs Phase 2 implementation milestones identified the Tactical Basin Plan Implementation Tables for the Lamoille and Missisquoi basins.

As you will note, the Report documents a 16.4 metric ton reduction in total phosphorus loading since the start of this reporting in 2016. This substantial incremental progress is noteworthy as the regulatory programs that were compelled by the Accountability Framework, set forth in Act 64, and now largely promulgated by the State, are still in the earliest years of implementation.

Should you or your staff have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Emily Bird, Manager of the Vermont Clean Water Initiative Program. Ms. Bird's team is responsible for the production of the important report, which I believe you will find more than satisfactory.

Warmly,



Emily Boedecker, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Cc:

Julie Moore, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources
Emily Bird, Manager, Clean Water Initiative Program, WID
Ethan Swift, Manager, Watershed Planning Program, WID
Neil Kamman, Director, Water Investment Division
Pete LaFlamme, Director, Watershed Management Division