



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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February 2, 2005

Ref: 8EPR-EP

Steven M. Pirner, Secretary
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501-3181

Re: TMDL Approvals
Belle Fourche River (5 segments)
Horse Creek

Dear Mr. Pirner:

We have completed our review, and have received Endangered Species Act Section 7 concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) as submitted by your office for the waterbodies listed in the enclosure to this letter. In accordance with the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et. seq.*), we approve all aspects of the TMDLs as developed for the water quality limited waterbodies as described in Section 303(d)(1).

Based on our review, we feel the separate elements of the TMDLs listed in the enclosed table adequately address the pollutants of concern as given in the table, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety. In the enclosed table, we have distinguished between TMDLs developed under Section 303(d)(1) vs. Section 303(d)(3) of the Clean Water Act. Section 303(d)(1) TMDLs are those for waterbodies that are water quality limited for the pollutant(s) of concern. The determination of whether a particular TMDL is (d)(1) or (d)(3) is made on a waterbody-by-waterbody and pollutant-by-pollutant basis.

Some of the TMDLs designated on the enclosed table as Section 303(d)(1) TMDLs, as distinguished from Section 303(d)(3) TMDLs, may be for waters not found on the current state 303(d) waterbody list. EPA understands that such waters would have been included on the list had the state been aware, at the time the list was compiled, of the information developed in the context of calculating these TMDLs. This information demonstrates that the non-listed water is in fact a water quality limited segment in need of a TMDL. The state need not include these



waters that have such TMDLs associated with them on its next Section 303(d) list for the pollutant covered by the TMDL.

Thank you for your submittal. If you have any questions concerning this approval, feel free to contact Vernon Berry of my staff at 303-312-6234.

Sincerely,

/s/ by Max H. Dodson

Max H. Dodson
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystems Protection and
Remediation

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE 1

APPROVED TMDLS

Waterbody Name*	TMDL Parameter/ Pollutant	Water Quality Goal/Endpoint	TMDL	Section 303(d)1 or 303(d)3 TMDL	Supporting Documentation (not an exhaustive list of supporting documents)
Belle Fourche River – from WY border to near Fruitdale*	Total Suspended Solids	TSS \leq 158 mg/L daily maximum	36,881 kg/yr TSS (55% reduction in average annual TSS loads)	Section 303(d)(1)	■ Phase I Watershed Assessment Final Report and TMDL, Belle Fourche River Watershed, Butte, Lawrence and Meade Counties, South Dakota (SD DENR, September 2004)
Belle Fourche River – from near Fruitdale to Whitewood Creek*	Total Suspended Solids	TSS \leq 158 mg/L daily maximum	8,102 kg/yr TSS (55% reduction in average annual TSS loads)	Section 303(d)(1)	■ Phase I Watershed Assessment Final Report and TMDL, Belle Fourche River Watershed, Butte, Lawrence and Meade Counties, South Dakota (SD DENR, September 2004)
Belle Fourche River – from Whitewood Creek to Willow Creek*	Total Suspended Solids	TSS \leq 158 mg/L daily maximum	237,199 kg/yr TSS (55% reduction in average annual TSS loads)	Section 303(d)(1)	■ Phase I Watershed Assessment Final Report and TMDL, Belle Fourche River Watershed, Butte, Lawrence and Meade Counties, South Dakota (SD DENR, September 2004)
Belle Fourche River – from Willow Creek to Alkali Creek*	Total Suspended Solids	TSS \leq 158 mg/L daily maximum	2,750 kg/yr TSS (55% reduction in average annual TSS loads)	Section 303(d)(1)	■ Phase I Watershed Assessment Final Report and TMDL, Belle Fourche River Watershed, Butte, Lawrence and Meade Counties, South Dakota (SD DENR, September 2004)
Belle Fourche River – from Alkali Creek to mouth*	Total Suspended Solids	TSS \leq 158 mg/L daily maximum	105,771 kg/yr TSS (55% reduction in average annual TSS loads)	Section 303(d)(1)	■ Phase I Watershed Assessment Final Report and TMDL, Belle Fourche River Watershed, Butte, Lawrence and Meade Counties, South Dakota (SD DENR, September 2004)
Horse Creek	Total Suspended Solids	TSS \leq 158 mg/L daily maximum	2,926 kg/yr TSS (41% reduction in average annual TSS loads)	Section 303(d)(1)	■ Phase I Watershed Assessment Final Report and TMDL, Belle Fourche River Watershed, Butte, Lawrence and Meade Counties, South Dakota (SD DENR, September 2004)

* An asterisk indicates the waterbody has been included on the State's Section 303(d) list of waterbodies in need of TMDLs.