

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

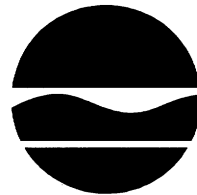
Division of Water

Bureau of Water Assessment and Management, 4th Floor

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Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

July 8, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a DRAFT Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document for Port Bay proposed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to address an impairment by phosphorus. Public comment on this document will be accepted for 30 days, through August 5, 2010.

A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. Water quality standards identify the uses for each waterbody and the scientific criteria to support that use. Port Bay is Class B therefore its designated uses are primary and secondary contact recreation, and aquatic life support (fishing). A TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of a single pollutant from all contributing sources. The calculation must include a margin of safety to ensure that the waterbody can be used for the purposes the State has designated. The calculation must also account for seasonal variation in water quality. States are required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) implementing regulations (40CFR Part 130) to develop TMDL plans for waterbodies and pollutants where water quality standards are not being met.

The proposed TMDL for phosphorus relies on a stringent effluent limit on the Village of Wolcott POTW, the voluntary elimination of septic systems by sewerage and significant voluntary load reductions from agricultural and developed lands to address the existing water quality impairment.

Comments should be sent, by mail to: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Water Assessment and Management at 625 Broadway, 4th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-3502, or via email at dahayes@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Comments received by COB August 5, 2010 will be considered prior to submitting the final TMDL to the EPA for approval.

If you have any questions, please call me at 518 402-8176.

Sincerely,

Ronald Entringer, P.E.

Chief, Water Quality Management