UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
WQ-16J

JUN 15 2015

Russell Rasmussen, Administrator
Water Division
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2015, submitting Wisconsin's proposed variance from the water quality standard for chloride for the Turtle Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), WPDES Permit Number WI-0025631-10, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for review under section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The proposed action would grant the Turtle Lake WWTF a variance from Wisconsin's chloride criterion, and would establish a variance-based, interim effluent limit of 920 mg/L, expressed as weekly average, and a target effluent limit of 830 mg/L for Turtle Lake WWTF's discharge to the local wetlands which flow into Moon Creek of the Hay River Watershed, in Barron County, Wisconsin.

Consistent with section 303(c) of the CWA and federal regulations at 40 CFR 131.21, EPA is required to review and approve state water quality standards. EPA has reviewed the information submitted in support of the proposed variance and hereby approves the revised water quality standard pursuant to section 303(c) of the CWA and federal regulations at 40 CFR 131.21.

As required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and federal regulations at 50 CFR Part 402, EPA evaluated whether approval of this variance would affect federally-listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat. As further described in the record, EPA determined that this action will have no effect on listed species and will not result in destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.

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If your staff has any questions regarding this approval, please contact Christine Wagener of my staff at (312) 886-0887.

Sincerely,

Tinka G. Hyde
Director, Water Division

cc: Brian Weigel, WDNR (electronic)
Bart Chapman, WDNR (electronic)
Sheri Snowbank, WDNR (electronic)
Kathy Bartilson, WDNR (electronic)
Peter Fasbender, USFWS