NPDES PERMITS AND TMDL BRANCH
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
WEEK ENDING 10/24/14

MEETING WITH ADEQ MANAGEMENT TO DISCUSS TOWN BRANCH PHOSPHORUS TMDL REVISIONS: Management from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) travelled to the EPA Region 6 office for a meeting which included discussions on the recent ADEQ submittal of a revised Town Branch Phosphorus TMDL document. The document revises the TMDL established by EPA in July 2010. At the meeting, ADEQ and EPA went over the various options for moving forward with the TMDL submittal. **Miranda Hodgkiss, 665-7538**

DRAFT WASTEWATER PERMIT FOR LOUISIANA OFFSHORE OIL PORT (LOOP): On 10/22/14, EPA R6 and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) discussed concerns regarding the need for whole effluent toxicity testing at Outfall 004 which is proposed to discharge brine from the Brine Storage Reservoir into waters of the State. EPA and LDEQ are drafting a joint reissuance permit for LOOP. This deepwater port receives and temporarily stores significant amounts of crude oil from tankers carrying foreign and domestic crude, as well as, domestic crude produced in the Gulf of Mexico. Also, the facility operates considerable onshore storage facilities and pipelines. The facility will discharge into Federal and State waters. **Kay Schwab; 665-6635.**

POST-CONSTRUCTION MUNICIPAL STORMWATER WORKSHOPS IN NEW MEXICO: EPA R6 is planning three post-construction workshops that will be held in Las Cruces, Aztec, and Albuquerque, NM during the week of December 1st, 2014. Managing stormwater to predevelopment hydrological conditions for newly developed and redeveloped sites is a goal of the existing Phase I Albuquerque municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit and both the proposed Middle Rio Grande watershed MS4 permit and the upcoming Statewide MS4 permit. The goal of the workshops are to show potential case studies of implementing stormwater controls in arid and semi-arid areas to meet the New Mexico MS4 permits' goals. The workshops will also present the analysis carried out in a Middle Rio Grande Predevelopment Hydrology Study. **Nelly Smith 665-7109**

WITHDRAWAL OF INTERIM OBJECTION LETTERS ISSUED TO THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. Withdrawal of Interim Objection Letters were issued to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on October 20, 2014, for the City of Bastrop - TX0126705, and the City of Lake Jackson - TX0025798 draft permits based on the submittal of revised permits which included pH limits which are consistent with the Texas Water Quality Standards. A Withdrawal of Interim Objection Letters was also issued to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on October 21, 2014, for the City of Rosenberg - TX0098914 draft permit based on the submittal of a revised permit which included adding a WET limit for test species *D. pulex*. Additionally, the EPA issued three (3) withdrawal of interim objection letters to the TCEQ for industrial facilities (TX0001465, McWane, Inc; TX0082651, NRG Texas Power.; and TX0005762, Eastman Chemical). The TCEQ submitted additional information that addressed and resolved the EPA's initial comments and concerns in regards to programmatic and permitting requirements/conditions (i.e., temp., 316b). **Rudy Molina, 665-6731; Kilty Baskin, 665-7500.**

INTERIM OBJECTION LETTERS ISSUED TO THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ). An Interim Objection Letter was issued to the TCEQ on October 20, 2014, for the Brazoria County Municipal Utility District No. 3 - TX0086118 draft permit,

due to a lack of reporting requirements or limits for Total Dissolved Solids and Chlorides. The letter is requesting information to show how these pollutants of concern were evaluated in accordance with the Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. An Interim Objection Letter was also issued to the TCEQ on October 21, 2014, for the City of Austin - TX0046981 draft permit due to a pH limit which is inconsistent with the Texas Water Quality Standards. The letter is requesting information to show why the proposed pH limit is appropriate. **Rudy Molina, 655-6731**

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OUTREACH/EDUCATION: On October 16, 2014, stormwater team staff attended the 2014 State Planning Conference Roof Gardens and Green Infrastructure Mobile Workshop to inform attendees about the social, economic and environmental benefits of green infrastructure practices. Participants of this bus/walking tour visited several sites in Dallas, such as Klyde Warren Park, Perot Museum, Deep Ellum Elm Street Complete Street, Alexan Trinity Apartments, and other upcoming re-construction sites, with unique examples of bioswales, rain gardens, and etc. Developers and engineers involved in each of the projects informed participants of the general engineering principles and fiscal elements necessary to implement similar projects in their cities. The annual APA Texas State Planning Conference is attended by 800+ planners and community leaders seeking to improve planning for their communities. The 2014 Conference held in Frisco, TX from October 15-18, 2014, also included a green infrastructure session within its sustainability track. **Suzanna Perea, 665-7217.**

CHOCTAW NATION PROMISE ZONE MEETING: On October 22, 2014, Choctaw Nation hosted an initial meeting with Federal Partners – USDA, HUD, HHS, DOL and EPA – to discuss how to kick start their Promise Zone initiative. The Choctaw Nation was 1 of 5 Promise Zones announced by the President in January 2014, and is the only tribal promise zone in the nation. The five promise zones announced in January are part of 20 that will be announced over the next 3 years. EPA Region 6 Tribal Office, Brownfields Program and Water Quality Protection Division representatives participated in the Choctaw Nation Promise Zone Meeting to assist the Choctaw Nation in re-engaging Federal Partners on the Promise Zone Initiative goals and concerns affecting Choctaw Nation – job training, job creation, water infrastructure, education, crime, and affordable housing. **Suzanna Perea, 665-7217; Kara Alexander, 665-7312; Dena Hurst, 665-7283.**

STORMWATER CONFERENCE: EPA R6 has started planning the second GI/LID Project Competition among GI/LID practitioners, including municipalities in Region 6. The objective of the Project Competition is not only to showcase GI/LID practices within Region 6, but to educate stormwater practitioners concerning the applications and benefits of GI/LID within the region, regardless of climate, rainfall patterns, soils, etc. The event will be held in Hot Springs, AR during the 2015 Annual EPA R6 Stormwater Conference. **Nelly Smith 665- 7109**

BUILDING BLOCKS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: On October 23, 2014, Office of Sustainable Communities announced a new round of short-term technical assistance through the Building Blocks Program. The assistance will focus on 5 topics: flood resilience for riverine and coastal communities, sustainable strategies for small cities and rural areas, bikeshare planning, infill development for distressed cities, and equitable development. EPA will select up to 25 communities through a competitive process, and selections will be made in collaboration with HUD and DOT through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. **Suzanna Perea, 665-7217.**

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY PERMITTING NUTRIENT TRADING PROGRAM UPDATE: During the regional conference call held on October 22, 2014, , EPA headquarters provided a briefing on the review of the National Network's Water Quality Trading "Options" Paper which is being viewed as a guidance document to enhance the trading program. Region 6 also made a presentation of ongoing efforts across Region 6 states with emphasis on the September 30, 2014, meeting between the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF, Associate Commissioner of Agriculture), the EPA Region 6 (Water Quality Division Director), and EPA headquarters program representatives to pursue the idea of a nutrient/WQ trading program in the Lake Ponchartrain Municipalities.
Michael Carrillo, 665-7381/Paul Kaspar, 665-7459

OKLAHOMA TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) WORKGROUP MEETING: On October 21, 2014, TMDL staff participated with several Oklahoma agencies including ODEQ, OWRB, ODAFF and OSEE on the quarterly Oklahoma TMDL workgroup call. This call provides a forum to convey the schedule for TMDL generation, discuss State priorities and spark technical discussion relevant to TMDLs. **Taimur Shaikh, 665-7181**

QUALITY ASSURANCE CONFERENCE: The week of October 20-23, 2014, a representative from the TMDL Branch participated in the 24th Annual Quality Assurance Conference. The conference covered various topics regarding several areas of quality assurance. EPA Headquarters and various international presenters provided a wealth of information in the area of quality assurance. **Monica Burrell, 665-7530**