To: Havard, James[Havard.James@epa.gov]
Cc: Monschein, Eric[Monschein.Eric@epa.gov]
From: Wooster, Richard
Sent: Mon 3/12/2018 12:08:44 PM
Subject: FW: TMDL for Illinois River watershed

FYI

Shellie Chard is Water Division Director for OK Dept. of Env. Quality. She reports to Scott Thompson who reports to Secretary Teague (OK Energy and Environment).

From: Garcia, David
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 2:47 PM
To: Dwyer, Stacey <Dwyer.Stacey@epa.gov>; Wooster, Richard <Wooster.Richard@epa.gov>; Shaikh, Taimur <Shaikh.Taimur@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: TMDL for Illinois River watershed

Sent from my iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Shellie Chard <Shellie.Chard@deq.ok.gov>
> **Date:** March 9, 2018 at 11:53:16 AM CST
> **To:** "garcia.david@epa.gov" <garcia.david@epa.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: TMDL for Illinois River watershed**
>
> Hi, David
> This is just FYI.
>
> Thanks
> Shellie
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** <info@illinoisriver.org>
> > **Date:** March 9, 2018 at 10:02:22 AM CST
> > **To:** Scott Thompson <scott.thompson@deq.ok.gov>, Shellie Chard <Shellie.chard@deq.ok.gov>, Shanon Phillips <shanon.phillips@conservation.ok.gov>
> > **Subject: FW: TMDL for Illinois River watershed**
> > **Reply-To:** <info@illinoisriver.org>
> >
> > Hi everyone....
> >
> > It was nearly one year ago that EPA officials said they would release models of the Illinois River and Tenkiller lake TMDLs and schedule public meetings "soon". Below is a report I made to several folks including you.
> >
> > We are still waiting for some news about a meeting.
> >
> > In the meantime, the phosphorus limit for scenic rivers is surpassed by 90-percent at the Arkansas-Oklahoma state line.
> >
> > The report of the Joint Scenic Rivers Study Committee has fallen into some deep, dark crevice in the Governor's office. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is ignoring the committee's recommendation for a change in the way that phosphorus is measured. It also has not intention of modifying the 0.037 mg/L phosphorus limit although the door is open for that due to the Joint Study Committee's report.

Sewage treatment plant permits in Oklahoma and in Arkansas are on hold and have been on hold for about ten years.
There is no plan for the states to work on achieving the .037 limit due to lack of a TMDL.

To top it all off, there still is no ruling from the federal judge in Tulsa following the 2009 poultry lawsuit naming Tyson and other poultry companies for polluting the Illinois River watershed and Tenkiller Lake.

Is this a great state or what?
We live in the State of Limbo.

Ed Brocksmith

From: D.E. Smoot <dsmoot@muskogeephoenix.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Save the Illinois River <info@illinoisriver.org>
Subject: Re: TMDL for Illinois River watershed

can i use this info for an article?

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On May 2, 2017, at 9:24 PM, Save the Illinois River <info@illinoisriver.org> wrote:

Our effort to hasten EPA's TMDls for the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller may be working. I received a telephone call this afternoon from Richard Wooster of the EPA in Dallas. Sitting in the call was EPA Dr. Shakh Taimur. Thanks to Shellie Charge for giving us the contact information for EPA Region 6. Highlights

of the conservation include:

EPA will release the water quality models for the Illinois River watershed very soon and will announce two meetings for public comment.

There actually may not be formal TMDLs eventually adopted. Instead, there are options including an option for a watershed management plan the states agree to. It up to the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma to determine how to proceed with the information from the scientific modeling EPA said.

STIR's FOIA request has been met by EPA and we will received recent correspondence about the TMDL process from public officials. There are actually only two letters: one from Arkansas U.
S. Senator Boozman and one from the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Committee (Council?). There also is a letter from Tyson Corporation One which we will receive.

As you might imagine, one of the reasons for the delay in completing the TMDLs has been the change in administration in Washington D.C. EPA Region 6 has taken elaborate steps to insure communication among its own staff up and down the line and possibly including the Administrator, Scott Pruitt. If Pruitt will see the models Wooster could not say. The original timeline to complete the studies was 18-months and Wooster said he now realizes that was "unrealistic".

Oklahoma probably will have to go through another rule-making process after the EPA study is released. This is because there was a change to our rules recommended by the Joint Scenic Rivers Study Committee. That change dealt with frequency and duration of testing. Remember the final report of the

committee recommended a six month average instead of the 30-day average. The Joint Study Committee also recommend the number be lowered to 0.035 mg/L.

EPA is well aware of the Baylor University study supporting Oklahoma's 0.037 mg/L phosphorus limit for scenic rivers and Wooster confirmed that the TMDLs are based on that number.

Ed Brocksmith