UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

June 22, 2018

Clark Freise, Assistant Commissioner
New Hampshire Environmental Services
Water Division
6 Hazen Drive, Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: 2016 §303(d) List

Dear Mr. Freise,

Thank you for submitting New Hampshire's 2016 §303(d) list of water quality limited segments on November 30, 2017. In accordance with §303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and 40 CFR §130.7, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has conducted a review of most of the State's list, including supporting documentation, with only a few waters remaining to be analyzed. Based on this review, EPA has determined that the majority of New Hampshire's list of water quality limited segments (WQLSs) still requiring total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) meets the requirements of §303(d) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA" or "the Act") and EPA implementing regulations. However, EPA is not taking action at this time to approve or to disapprove the State's decisions relating to certain assessment zones in the Great Bay Estuary and the State's decisions on pH for the Upper Portsmouth Harbor, Great Bay Prohib SZ2, and Great Bay-Cond Appr assessment units. Therefore, EPA hereby approves New Hampshire's 2016 final §303(d) list with the exception of the following: Little Bay, Bellamy River, Upper Piscataqua River, Portsmouth Harbor, Little Harbor/Back Channel and Great Bay assessment zones; and the Upper Portsmouth Harbor, Great Bay Prohib SZ2, and Great Bay-Cond Appr assessment units. EPA is deferring action on the State's list with respect to this group of assessment zones and assessment units until a later date when EPA's review is completed. EPA needs more time to complete its review of these assessment zones and units because of the complexity of the assessment issues involved.

Thank you for your hard work in developing the 2016 §303(d) list. My staff and I look forward to continuing our work with NHDES to implement the requirements under §303(d) of the CWA. If you have any questions or need additional

information please contact Ralph Abele at 617-918-1629 or Toby Stover at 617-918-1604.

Sincerely,

/s/
Ken Moraff, Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection

Enclosure

cc: NHDES: Ted Diers, Gregg Comstock, Matt Wood
EPA: Ralph Abele, Ann Williams, Greg Dain