UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

FEB 27 2013

Honorable Bill John Baker
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Principal Chief Baker:

Thank you for engaging with EPA in government to government consultation regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program authorization to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF). The coordination and consultation process between EPA and the Cherokee Nation has concluded. Enclosed is a record of our consultation.

As you may know, on December 20, 2012, EPA approved Oklahoma's request for ODAFF to implement the NPDES permit program for point source discharges that fall under its state statutory authority. ODAFF is responsible for day-to-day program administration, while EPA now will oversee ODAFF's program implementation as we have the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) since 1997.

You may be aware that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by ODAFF and EPA upon program authorization was revised to address the Cherokee Nation's comments raised during the public comment period. We believe these shared discussions allow EPA to continue strengthening relationships with our Tribal partners.

If you have additional concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (214) 665-7101. For questions or concerns regarding consultation, feel free to contact Ms. Jeannine Hale at (214) 665-2136 or your staff may contact Ms. Christina Kracher at (214) 665-8054. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Stacey B. Dwyer

for William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure

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