



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029  
1/20/2005

Richard Eskin, Ph.D., Director  
Technical and Regulatory Services Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 450  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

Dear Dr. Eskin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Final report entitled, "Water Quality Analysis of Eutrophication for Piney Run Reservoir, Carroll County, Maryland," submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final Agency review on September 30, 2004.

EPA concurs with MDE's determination that the recent data show that the water quality of Piney Run Reservoir is close to, but not exceeding, the applicable water quality standards associated with nutrient loading. EPA also concurs with MDE's determination that a total maximum daily load (TMDL) is not needed for Piney Run Reservoir provided that Carroll County develops a Watershed Protection Plan. Carroll County indicated its commitment to developing this plan in a letter to MDE dated November 25, 2003. EPA expects that this Plan will provide an implementation plan, follow-up monitoring / evaluation, and a requirement of no increases above current nutrient loadings. The Plan must also contain a funding commitment for future monitoring. Should Carroll County fail to develop this Plan, then a TMDL must be developed.

Piney Run Reservoir (basin ID 02-13-09-08, listed as "South Branch Patapsco River - Impoundment") was first listed by Maryland on its 1998 Section 303(d) list of water quality-limited segments as impaired by sediments and nutrients. In 2002, Maryland added a biological impairment for Piney Run Reservoir to the Section 303(d) list. This water quality analysis only addresses the nutrient impairment. The sediment impairment was addressed in a water quality analysis approved by EPA in December 2003, and the biological impairment is to be addressed at a later date.

If in the future evidence suggests that nutrients from the Piney Run Reservoir watershed are contributing to a decline in water quality, or if the Watershed Protection Plan fails to be developed and implemented, then further action will have to be taken.



If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Henry at 215-814-5752. Also, please forward a copy of the Watershed Protection Plan to EPA once it is completed.

Sincerely,

Signed

Dominique Lueckenhoff,  
Associate Director  
Water Protection Division  
Office of Watersheds

cc: Melissa Chatham, MDE -TARSA  
James Slater, Jr., Carroll County Environment and Resource Protection Program