
State of Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: Snake – Hells Canyon TMDL File

Date: July 29, 2003

From: Michael T. Llewelyn, WQ Administrator

Subject: Snake – Hells Canyon TMDL Order

On July 15, 2003, the Snake River/Hells Canyon Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued as an order by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The area covered by the Snake River/Hells Canyon TMDL is limited to the Snake River from river mile 409 to river mile 188.

This final Snake River/Hells Canyon TMDL, developed under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act, has been submitted for US EPA approval. The document, when approved, will be an update to Oregon's Continuous Planning Process per §303(e) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Oregon's WQMP is also being submitted to EPA, although it does not need to be approved or disapproved as specified under the terms of the February 1, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and DEQ regarding the implementation of §303(d) of the CWA. Should EPA modify or disapprove this TMDL, such actions will be made public. In addition, this TMDL was a joint effort with the State of Idaho and was submitted jointly to EPA.

The watershed analyses and draft TMDLs were developed with the assistance of a public advisory team made up of a broad representation of stakeholders in the Snake River/Hells Canyon area. The intent was to get informal review and comment while the Idaho and Oregon DEQs were completing the development of the draft TMDLs.

The public comment period on the draft Snake River/Hells Canyon TMDL was opened on December 21, 2001 and closed on April 19, 2002. Informational meetings to present background on the technical and modeling components of the draft TMDLs were provided at several venues preceding the public comment period, a public information meeting was held on January 8, 2002 in Lewiston, Idaho, and two formal public hearings were held on January 9 and April 11, 2002 in the cities of Boise, Idaho and Ontario, Oregon, respectively. DEQ received comments on the draft TMDLs from 116 individuals



representing themselves, city and local government entities, watershed councils, agencies, agricultural groups, environmental groups, and several forest industry groups. DEQ summarized the issues raised, prepared responses, and made revisions to the draft TMDL and WQMP.

This memo and the related public notification represent the beginning of the 60-day appeal period on this DEQ action. The Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) allow for the following:

- (1) Any person who participated in establishing a TMDL, including those who submitted comments, and any other person entitled to seek judicial review of an order issuing a TMDL may request reconsideration by the Director in accordance with OAR 137-004-0080.
- (2) A person may file a petition for judicial review of a final TMDL order as allowed by ORS 183.484.

This TMDL can be found at the following website:

www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm or can be viewed at the following locations: DEQ Headquarters, 811 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204; DEQ Eastern Region Pendleton Office, 700 SE Emigrant, Suite 330, Pendleton, OR 97801; or DEQ Eastern Region Bend Office, 2146 NE 4th, #104, Bend, OR 97701. Once EPA has approved this TMDL, this document will be made available via a CD electronic file or paper.

Should you have any questions about this TMDL, please contact either Dick Nichols at 541-388-6146 ext. 251 or Greg Aldrich at 503-229-6345.

Issued by:

Michael T. Llewelyn
Water Quality Administrator

Date: _____

Attachments

