UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
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DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAY 6 2005

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OFFICE OF PERMITTING, REMEDIATION & REGISTRATION

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MAY 19 2005
WATER QUALITY DIVISION

Mr. Dan Eden, Deputy Director
Office of Permitting, Remediation & Registration (MC-122)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Eden:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of several provisions in the *Texas Surface Water Quality Standards* (TX WQS). These standards were adopted by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, now the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), on July 26, 2000, and submitted to the EPA for approval on September 27, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the EPA is approving the provisions documented in the enclosure to this letter, pursuant to §303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the implementing regulation at 40 CFR Part 131. These items include the minerals criteria for 29 segments and the addition of the aquifer protection use to 14 segments.

EPA previously approved the revised minerals criteria for segments 1243, 1427, 1430, 1813, 1814, 1905 and 2310 subject to the completion of consultation under §7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The EPA has completed consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under §7(a)(2) of the ESA on the revised criteria for the segments listed above, along with the criteria for the remaining segments identified in the enclosure and the addition of the aquifer protection use. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that it believes that EPA has complied with §7(a)(2) of the ESA in regard to potential impacts on Federally-listed species.

The EPA previously approved the human health provisions in the TX WQS: new and revised language in §307.2, §307.3 and §307.5, revised minerals criteria for numerous segments in Appendix A - Site-specific Uses and Criteria for Classified Segments; the revised standards for segment 0230 - Pease River in Appendix A; all new and revised provisions in Appendix C - Segment Descriptions and Appendix D - Site-specific Receiving Water Assessments; and, criteria based on seven of the water effects ratios for copper in Appendix E - Site-specific Criteria. The EPA will take separate action on the remaining new and revised parts of the TX WQS.

App A minerals

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I would like to commend the TCEQ staff for its commitment in completing the task of reviewing and revising the state's water quality standards. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (214) 665-7101, or have your staff contact Diane Evans at (214) 665-6677.

Sincerely,

Miguel I. Flores
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Jim Davenport, TCEQ- Water Quality Assessment Section (MC-150)
Allen White, USFWS - Austin Ecological Services Office

Appendix A - Site-specific Uses and Criteria for Classified Segments

Segment	Water body	County	Parameter	2000 TX WQS
1243	Salado Creek	Williamson Bell	TDS	400 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1244	Brushy Creek	Milam Williamson	chloride TDS	200 mg/l 800 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1248	San Gabriel/North Fork San Gabriel River	Williamson	chloride sulfate	50 mg/l 50 mg/l Aquifer protection use*
1249	Lake Georgetown	Williamson	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 350 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1250	South Fork San Gabriel River	Williamson Burnett	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 350 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1251	North Fork San Gabriel River	Williamson Burnett	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1427	Onion Creek	Blanco Hays Travis	chloride sulfate TDS	100 mg/l 100 mg/l 500 mg/l note - aquifer protection reach* is assigned criteria of: chloride - 50 mg/l and sulfate - 50 mg/l; (these criteria have not been revised). The TDS criterion for the aquifer protection reach was revised to 400 mg/l.
1430	Barton Creek	Travis Hays	chloride sulfate	50 mg/l 50 mg/l

Some were approved in Dec 04. TDS, chlorides, sulfates

Segment	Water body	County	Parameter	2000 TX WQS
1804	Guadalupe River Below Comal River	Gonzales Guadalupe Comal	chloride	100 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1805	Canyon Lake	Comal	chloride sulfate	50 mg/l 50 mg/l
1806	Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake	Comal Kendall Kerr	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1809	Lower Blanco River	Hays	chloride	50 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1810	Plum Creek	Caldwell Hays		Aquifer protection use *
1811	Comal River	Comal	chloride sulfate	50 mg/l 50 mg/l Aquifer protection use*
1812	Guadalupe River Below Canyon Dam	Comal	chloride sulfate	50 mg/l 50 mg/l
1813	Upper Blanco River	Blanco Hays Kendall	chloride sulfate	50 mg/l 50 mg/l
1814	Upper San Marcos River	Hays	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1815	Cypress Creek	Hays	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l Aquifer protection use *
1816	Johnson Creek	Kerr	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l
1817	North Fork Guadalupe River	Kerr	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l

Segment	Water body	County	Parameter	2000 TX WQS
1818	South Fork Guadalupe River	Kerr	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l
1903	Medina River below Medina Diversion Lake	Bexar Medina		Aquifer protection use *
1905	Medina River above Medina Lake	Bandera	sulfate	150 mg/l
1908	Upper Cibolo Creek	Comal Bexar Kendall	sulfate TDS	100 mg/l 600 mg/l
2111	Upper Sabinal River	Uvalde Bandera	chloride	50 mg/l
2112	Upper Nueces River	Zavala Uvalde Real Edwards	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l
2113	Upper Frio River	Uvalde Real	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 50 mg/l 400 mg/l
2114	Hondo Creek	Frio Medina Bandera	chloride sulfate TDS	50 mg/l 100 mg/l 400 mg/l
2115	Seco Creek	Frio Medina Bandera	chloride TDS	50 mg/l 400 mg/l
2310	Lower Pecos River	Crockett Terrell Val Verde	chlorides sulfates TDS	1700 mg/l 1000 mg/l 4000 mg/l
2312	Red Bluff Reservoir	Loving Reeves	chloride sulfate TDS	3200 mg/l 2200 mg/l 9400 mg/l

* The aquifer protection use applies to the contributing, recharge and transition zones of the Edwards Aquifer. (See TX WQS, footnotes on applicable pages in Appendix A)