



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

MAY 12 2014

Ms. L'Oreal W. Stepney, P.E.
Deputy Director
Office of Water (MC-158)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

RE TCEQ Proposed Development Strategy for Thermal Evaluation Procedures

Dear Ms. Stepney:

Thank you for your letter of April 29, 2014, outlining the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Proposed Development Strategy for Thermal Evaluation Procedures. We believe TCEQ's interim and long-term strategies for thermal discharges reflect a commitment to ensuring that thermal discharge limits protect State Water Quality Standards. We look forward to working closely with you to implement the plan described in your letter.

TCEQ's inclusion of the interim permit conditions as described in the April 29, 2014, strategy will satisfactorily address EPA objections regarding temperature issues in draft permits. We look forward to working with you and your staff in withdrawing previous interim objections.

We thank you and your staff for their time and efforts in the development and finalization of this thermal implementation strategy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.K. Honker".

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