



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To  
Attn Of: OW-134

MAY - 1 2000

David E. Mabe  
State Water Program Administrator  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Mr. Mabe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) 1998 Section (§) 303(d) List and other supporting documentation and information. Based on this review, EPA has determined that IDEQ's 1998 list of water quality limited segments is largely complete and approvable. However, the list does not include certain water body segment/pollutant pairings required to be listed pursuant to § 303(d) and EPA regulations. Therefore, by this order, EPA hereby partially approves IDEQ's 1998 § 303(d) List. EPA approves IDEQ's decision to include each of the water body/pollutant listings identified by the State in its list, and disapproves the State's decision not to include certain additional waters/pollutant pairings.

The enclosure describes the statutory and regulatory requirements for developing § 303(d) lists, summarizes the rationale behind EPA's decision, and provides EPA's review of Idaho's compliance with each requirement. In addition, the enclosure identifies 136 waters we believe were inappropriately excluded from the State's 1998 list. Of these, temperature data available to the State indicates that applicable temperature criteria were exceeded for 134 waters. Two (2) waters included in Idaho's 1996 list were not included on the 1998 list, and EPA believes there is not an adequate basis for removing them. We will propose to add these waters to the Idaho list later this week.

EPA appreciates the substantial effort IDEQ has committed to the ongoing development of a biological monitoring and assessment process for use in the § 303(d) listing process. We fully support such a decision making process and look forward to continuing to work with you in its development.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our decision, please do not hesitate to contact Paula VanHaagen at (206) 553-2857 or Leigh Woodruff at (208) 378-5774.

Sincerely,

Randall F. Smith, Director  
Office of Water

Enclosure