



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 24, 2014

Alexander J.E. English
Hall & Associates
1620 I St., NW
Washington, DC 20006-4033

OFFICE OF
WATER

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request EPA-HQ-2015-000462

Dear Mr. English:

This letter responds to your October 14, 2014, request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for documents pertaining to use of the "sentinel site method" in EPA Region 1. As explained below, the Agency does not have records that are responsive to your request.

1. ***"The public notice in the federal register regarding the agency's intended use of the Sentinel Site Method for the purposes of selecting nutrient criteria and/or meeting dissolved oxygen criteria in estuarine waters."***

Records in support of individual permitting decisions (e.g., the draft NPDES permit and fact sheets for the Taunton, Massachusetts wastewater treatment facility), are not published in the Federal Register; thus, there are no records responsive to this request.

2. ***"Any Science Advisory Board review of this method (as applied by EPA Region 1) finding it scientifically defensible."***

The Science Advisory Board (SAB) has not reviewed the permit administrative records for NPDES permits developed for facilities discharging to the Taunton River Estuary; thus, there are no records responsive to this request.

3. ***"Any documentation confirming that EPA has previously peer-reviewed the "sentinel approach" as proposed for use in Region 1."***

There are no records responsive to this request.

4. ***Any correspondence sent from EPA HQ to the agency's Regional offices stating that the "sentinel approach" was scientifically defensible and an acceptable means for generating numeric nutrient criteria and/or establishing numeric nutrient limits under 40 CFR 122.44(d).***

There are no records responsive to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah G. Nagle".

Deborah G. Nagle, Director
Water Permits Division