



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: ORC-158

05 AUG 2005

Chief J. Allan, Chairman
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
850 A Street , P.O. Box 408
Plummer, Idaho

RE: Approval of TAS for Water Quality Standards

Dear Chairman Allan:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (EPA) has approved the Coeur d'Alene Tribe as eligible under Section 518 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and EPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 131 for "treatment in the same manner as a State" (TAS). The Tribe is eligible for TAS to administer the water quality standards program under the CWA for those waters of Coeur d'Alene Lake and the St. Joe River within the Coeur d'Alene Reservation (the Reservation), but not Heyburn State Park. I have attached a copy of the signed decision document.

EPA has reviewed the application by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe for TAS under Section 518 of the CWA for the purpose of administering water quality standards and certifying that discharges comply with those water quality standards. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe initially requested TAS for all waters of the Couer d'Alene Reservation, and later requested interim, partial approval to establish water quality standards and issue water quality certifications just with respect to those waters of Coeur d'Alene Lake and the St. Joe River within the Reservation, but not Heyburn State Park. In making this decision, EPA considered comments provided by the State of Idaho, including comments from the public that were forwarded to EPA by the State.

EPA will make it a high priority to provide timely reviews of the water quality standards that the Tribe adopts and submits for EPA approval. When approved, those Tribal standards would apply under section 303(c) of the CWA to all surface waters of Coeur d'Alene Lake and the St. Joe River within the Reservation, but not Heyburn State Park.

We recognize that this application has been pending with EPA for some time, and we also appreciate the many efforts the Tribe and its staff have made to address issues that have arisen and to work with EPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. EPA will continue to be ready to assist the Tribe as it develops and implements its water quality standards.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at (206) 553-1234, or your staff can contact Rich McAllister at (206) 553-8203 or Sally Brough at (206) 553-1295.

Sincerely,



Ronald A. Kreizenbeck
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 10

Enclosure

cc: Toni Hardesty, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality