



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

SEP 01 2016

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

The Honorable Robert L. Cowles
Wisconsin Senate
Wisconsin State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882

Dear Mr. Cowles:

Thank you for your August 19, 2016 letter regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's review of Wisconsin's multi-discharger variance (MDV) for phosphorus.

EPA is reviewing the complete water quality standards submittal for the phosphorus MDV, which we received on April 1, 2016. Because of its complexity and novel approach, and being the first MDV submittal since EPA revised its water quality standards in August 2015, EPA's review is taking additional time. We appreciate that many entities, including regulated facilities, environmental advocates and the State of Wisconsin, are awaiting EPA's decision. We expect to take action soon and will continue to update the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the status of our review.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me or your staff may contact Denise Fortin or Ronna Beckmann, the Region 5 Intergovernmental Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Kaplan".

Robert A. Kaplan
Acting Regional Administrator