

March 12, 2025

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: WW-16J

Ms. Joey Logan-Pugh, Chief Bureau of Water Illinois Environmental Protection Agency 2520 West Iles Avenue Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Ms. Logan-Pugh:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hereby transmits to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency the list of 19 water quality limited segments (WQLS) and associated pollutants the EPA added to Illinois' 2024 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters still requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) on December 11, 2024. Illinois' 2024 Section 303(d) list was submitted to the EPA on October 2, 2024, pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Section 130.7. On December 11, 2024, the EPA partially approved and partially disapproved the Illinois 2024 Section 303(d) list as described in the EPA's "Decision Document for the Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of the Illinois 2024 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List" and appendices (enclosed). Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Section 130.7(d)(2), the EPA issued a public notice soliciting public comment on its identification of WQLS and associated pollutants for inclusion on Illinois' 2024 Section 303(d) list. No comments were received during the 45-day public comment period (December 17, 2024, through January 31, 2025).

As described in the December 2024 decision document (section 2.D.iv), the EPA approved the waters the state included on the 2024 Section 303(d) list and disapproved the exclusion of certain waters. The EPA partially disapproved Illinois' 2024 303(d) list and identified 19 WQLS for inclusion on the list because data and information indicated the aesthetic quality use was not being met for algae for these WQLS, and Illinois did not identify total phosphorus as a contributing cause. The EPA disapproved the list in part, because Illinois did not provide a technical, science-based rationale for excluding these data or good cause for excluding the WQLS from the list. After receiving no comments on the addition of the 19 WQLS during the public comment period, the EPA has taken no further action with respect to this list. Appendix 3 of the enclosed decision document includes the 19 WQLS the EPA added to Illinois' 2024 303(d) list for total phosphorus. This letter concludes the Illinois' 2024 Section 303(d) listing process.

I look forward to our continued partnership in addressing the challenges of water quality in Illinois. We will continue to collaborate with you and your staff as you prepare your 2026 list. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David Pfeifer, Manager, Watersheds and Wetlands Branch, at (312) 353-9024 or <a href="mailto:pfeifer.david@epa.gov">pfeifer.david@epa.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

3/12/2025

Tera L. Fong

Director, Water Division Signed by: TERA FONG

## **ENCLOSURE**

1. Decision document and appendices (1-6)

cc: Nicole Vidales, Illinois EPA Abel Haile, Illinois EPA Christine Davis, Illinois EPA