



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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January 28, 2010

The Honorable H. Dan Ness
Mayor, City of Alexandria
704 Broadway
Alexandria, MN 56308

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RE: December 7, 2009 Letter
Lake Winona Study Impacts on the City of Alexandria

Dear Mayor Ness:

Thank you for your letter dated December 7, 2009, expressing concerns about the potential economic impacts of the Lake Winona Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study on the city of Alexandria (City). As you are aware, the TMDL process seeks to identify impaired waters and identify changes needed to clean up those waters so they meet water quality standards. Through the TMDL process, we have determined that large reductions in phosphorus from all sources will be needed if Lake Winona is to meet water quality standards.

You expressed concern that the magnitude of the reduction being requested of the City will be either impossible or prohibitively expensive to achieve. We agree that the reduction requested is very large, but we feel this allocation is not unreasonable for the draft TMDL. Since this is still a draft version of the TMDL, discussion within the stakeholder group can allow for changes in the allocations that can be incorporated into the final TMDL.

The data used to determine this reduction was collected prior to the City's recent significant investment and improvement in stormwater facilities. The addition of the stormwater collection basin near the airport will have a significant beneficial impact on the City's discharge to Lake Winona, which will apply directly to the reduction discussed in the draft TMDL.

Implementation of any projects recommended is long term, allowing for costs to be spread out over a significant period of time. The timeline also allows for progress in achieving the standards to be monitored. If progress is sufficient with lesser reductions or from reductions from other sources, the full reduction from stormwater may not be needed.

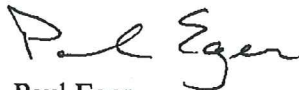
The TMDL process is most successful when all concerned parties work cooperatively toward a common goal. I commend the city of Alexandria for its past participation in the TMDL process and its efforts to make improvements in the stormwater system. I also encourage your continued participation and leadership in the implementation planning efforts that will take place over the next year. This is the phase of the TMDL process where specific strategies and timelines for improvements will be negotiated.

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Thank you once again for expressing your concerns in this matter and for your past and future efforts to improve and protect water quality in Minnesota. If you have further concerns or questions, I encourage you to contact Project Manager Jim Courneya at 218-846-8105 or jim.courneya@state.mn.us. You could also contact his supervisor, Jim Ziegler at 218-846-8102, or jim.ziegler@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Paul Eger
Commissioner

PE/JC:blm:bt

cc: Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Representative Torrey Westrom
Will Haapala, MPCA Detroit Lakes
Jim Courneya, MPCA Detroit Lakes
Jim Ziegler, MPCA Detroit Lakes