



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM OFFICE
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109
Annapolis, Maryland

May 27, 2016

Jill K. Whitcomb, Water Program Specialist
Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Dear Ms. Whitcomb:

As you are aware, EPA conditionally approved Pennsylvania's November 14, 2015 revised draft BMP Verification Program Quality Assurance Plan pending further revision addressing EPA's remaining major concerns. On March 3rd, you transmitted Pennsylvania's revised final BMP Verification Program Quality Assurance Plan along with copy of EPA's January 26, 2016 comment letter annotated with page numbers to identify where comments have been addressed.

Thanks to you and your fellow state agency colleagues for providing your EPA colleagues with a solid revised final BMP Verification Program Quality Assurance Plan for Pennsylvania. Based on the recommendations of a review team of EPA staff and program managers, EPA approved the revised plan on May 5th. Your accompanying responses to each of EPA's remaining major comments were very helpful in both pinpointing exactly where you made changes to the program plan and in better understanding where Pennsylvania was coming from on the different issues raised by EPA.

Over the coming two years, we look forward to continuing to work closely with you, your fellow state agency colleagues and your many partner agencies and organizations contributing BMP implementation data reflecting Pennsylvania's on the ground pollutant load reduction progress. Building on your work to date and the plans described within the approved BMP verification program plan, there is more work to be done by 2018 to ensure every BMP reported has been verified as being in place and operational. Pennsylvania is actively pursuing a number of very innovative approaches to verification which we look forward to sharing with our other jurisdictional partners.

Please let me know where and when EPA and your other Chesapeake Bay Program partners can assist Pennsylvania in developing a comprehensive and transparent BMP verification program. I can be reached at 410-267-5731 and batiuk.richard@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Batiuk".

Richard Batiuk
Associate Director for Science, Analysis and
Implementation