



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 1  
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100  
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

CITY OF  
Received  
DEC 24 2019  
City Manager  
ROCHESTER

December 19, 2019

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Karen Weston, Mayor  
City of Dover  
288 Central Avenue  
Dover, NH 03820

Michael Joyal, City Manager  
City of Dover  
288 Central Avenue  
Dover, NH 03820

Caroline McCarley, Mayor  
City of Rochester  
31 Wakefield Street  
Rochester, NH 03867

Blain Cox, City Manager  
City of Rochester  
31 Wakefield Street  
Rochester, NH 03867

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your September 30, 2019 and October 7, 2019 letters to me and the EPA Assistant Administrator for Water David Ross, requesting peer review of EPA Region 1's method for deriving water quality-based effluent limitations for wastewater treatment plant discharges in the Great Bay watershed.

EPA appreciates the strong interest in your communities regarding EPA's permitting approach in Great Bay. As you are aware, EPA and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) have made extraordinary efforts to engage the communities in the permit development process. The agencies held numerous meetings starting in October of 2018 with Great Bay municipalities, including representatives from Rochester and Dover, in which EPA's approach was discussed in detail and the communities were provided opportunities to engage directly with the permitting and water quality teams at the EPA and NHDES. Outside of these meetings, the Agency (and NHDES) made sure to afford the municipalities and other stakeholders ample opportunity to provide feedback and input regarding this permitting approach, including on the underlying science.

The EPA and NHDES have carefully considered – and in some cases incorporated – this early feedback as we considered pathways to meeting water quality standards in Great Bay. Although EPA has shared the approach that we intend to use to set load-based limits with stakeholders, we have yet to issue a draft permit and fact sheet for public notice and comment. When we do, as with all proposed permits, the permittees and any other members of the public will have the opportunity to review and comment.

At this time, EPA does not have plans to subject the permitting approach to a separate peer review, unless a scientific or technical issue is identified during the public comment period that merits the Agency undertaking this task.

EPA will carefully consider and respond to any timely comments received during the public comment period from permittees and other members of the public before making a final permitting decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Deziel", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dennis Deziel  
Regional Administrator