



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Commissioner's Office

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Agency of Natural Resources

April 1, 2019

Mel Cote

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 1

5 Post Office Square, Suite 100

Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: Report Card on Vermont Lake Champlain TMDL Phase 2 Implementation and Beyond

Dear Mr. Cote:

The purpose of this letter is to document the State of Vermont and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) agreed approach to fulfill the *Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain* Accountability Framework.¹ The State of Vermont is committed to fulfill its obligations in the Accountability Framework to ensure adequate progress for the public and to inform adaptive management. The State's plan, described below, fulfills and exceeds the expectations laid out in the TMDLs' Accountability Framework.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) will submit the *Vermont Clean Water Annual Performance Report* to EPA Region 1 by January 15th annually. Submittal on January 15th provides state and federal agencies six months to compile and quality-check data and prepare the report after the reporting period closes. The Report, which will also fulfill the State of Vermont's legislatively mandated *Clean Water Investment Report* requirements, will contain the following:

1. State of Vermont investments in clean water projects statewide and by tactical basin planning watershed.
2. Results of clean water projects installed through state and federal funding programs, including project outputs and estimated nutrient pollutant reductions.
3. Results of water quality regulations driving clean water projects to mitigate nutrient pollution from agriculture, stormwater, and wastewater.
4. Analysis of phosphorus pollutant reductions achieved through implementation of clean water projects in the Vermont portion of the Lake Champlain basin relative to Lake Champlain TMDLs targets by lake segment watershed.
5. Indicators of change in phosphorus loading to Lake Champlain based on monitoring programs, over time when updated data are available.
6. Indicators of variables that affect the ability to meet Lake Champlain phosphorus reduction targets, such as changes in land use, population, livestock animal units, and climate/weather, over time when updated data are available.
7. Status of Lake Champlain TMDLs Phase 2 implementation milestones identified in Tactical Basin Plan Implementation Tables for each basin due for an EPA Report Card any given reporting period.

¹ Available at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/restoring/champlain>

The upcoming *Vermont Clean Water Annual Performance Report* will address Phase 2 implementation and beyond in the Accountability Framework. ANR will also report to EPA on the three outstanding Phase 1 milestones for EPA to issue its final Phase 1 report card by mid-2019, as described in EPA's letter to the State of Vermont dated April 2, 2018.¹

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emily Boedecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Emily Boedecker, Commissioner

cc: Julie Moore, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources
Emily Bird, Manager, Clean Water Implementation Program
Pete LaFlamme, Director, Watershed Management Division