



**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**  
Mankato Office

**COPY**

September 29, 2008

Mr. Matt Solesmaas  
Pomme de Terre River Joint Powers Board  
Stevens County Soil and Water Conservation District  
12 Highway 28 East, Suite 2  
Morris, MN 56267

Dear Mr. Solesmaas:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed your recently submitted implementation plan for the Pomme de Terre River Watershed Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project. We find the water quality improvement activities described in the plan to be reasonable, and consistent with the TMDL study. As such, we hereby approve the implementation plan.

The implementation plan covers a time frame of ten years. Over such long-time periods, new information will emerge about the nature of, and solutions for, bacterial contamination of surface waters in Minnesota. Therefore, the MPCA accepts that revisions to the implementation plan will need to be made periodically. We will continue to work with the Pomme de Terre River Joint Powers Board in this area.

The fecal coliform TMDL work completed in the Pomme de Terre River Watershed has created some controversy, particularly among some groups and individuals representing sources of bacteria that were deemed likely to be contributing to violations of water quality standards in the watershed. Both the TMDL study and implementation plan acknowledged some uncertainty as to the exact causes of these violations. The Pomme de Terre River Joint Powers Board has done great work to move forward with a reasonable plan in the face of both the controversy and uncertainty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Finley".

Robert Finley  
Manager, Southeast Region  
Regional Division

RF:jj

cc: Matt Drewitz, Board of Water & Soil Resources  
Marilyn Bayerl, Bayerl Water Resources  
Jeff Risberg, MPCA  
Katherine Pekarek-Scott, MPCA