220

STATE OF MICHIGAN

JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

"Better Service for a Better Environment"

HOLLISTER BUILDING, PO BOX 30473, LANSING MI 48909-7973

INTERNET: www.deq.state.mi.us

RUSSELL J. HARDING, Director

REPLY TO:

SURFACE WATER QUALITY DIVISION
KNAPPS CENTRE
PO BOX 30273
LANSING MI 48909-7773

May 24, 2000

United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service
Content Analysis Enterprise Team, Attn: UFP
Building 2, Suite 295
Amelia Earhart Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Content Analysis Enterprise Team:

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Surface Water Quality Division (SWQD), has reviewed the proposed Unified Federal Policy for Ensuring a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management. We welcome the federal government's willingness to join us as an active player in watershed management in Michigan. Federally managed lands constitute approximately 15 percent of Michigan's land area and are in 36 of our major watersheds. Federal agencies have a major role to play in watershed management to restore and protect Michigan's water quality. For the partnership to be effective, the federal agencies should work with the state in developing time schedules for assessments and other activities.

CAET RECEIVED
MAY 26 2000

We look forward to the federal agencies becoming partners with us and with local governments in the following watershed management activities, as identified in the proposed policy:

- Cooperating in conducting watershed assessments.
- Assisting in watershed restoration efforts.
- Defining priority watersheds and watersheds designated for special protection.
- Addressing nonpoint sources of pollution.
- Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in impaired watersheds.
- Improving federal agency compliance with the water quality requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.
- Assessing federal agency policies and procedures for land use that affect water quality.

The SWQD has found the active involvement of local government to be extremely important to a watershed planning process. While the proposed policy recognizes this, it is not clear if or how the federal agencies will take into account state and local

government readiness to proceed when scheduling federal watershed assessment and planning work. For example, the federal agencies may be ready to proceed with assessment or planning before there is recognition of the need at the local level, or the agencies may be ready to proceed in a TMDL watershed that the state has scheduled for work several years in the future. The proposed policy should indicate that scheduling of watershed assessments and planning take into account state and local government priorities and readiness to proceed.

Similarly, in the event that a watershed plan already exists, either the federal watershed plan should be consistent with that plan or the federal agencies should engage the local governments into a process to update the plan.

When the federal agencies are ready to proceed with a watershed-based approach to land and resource management in Michigan, they may contact me to obtain state involvement. We look forward to sharing our experience in watershed management with federal agencies in Michigan. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Mr. Steve Eldredge, Chief, Program Support Section, at 517-335-4177, or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

David A. Hamilton, Chief
Surface Water Quality Division
517-335-4176

dah:se:vw
cc: Mr. Arthur R. Nash Jr., Deputy Director, MDEQ
Mr. Steve Eldredge, MDEQ
Ms. Susan Benzie, MDEQ

220

220

STATE OF MICHIGAN

JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

HOLLISTER BUILDING, PO BOX 30473, LANSING MI 48909-7973

RUSSELL J. HARDING, Director

REPLY TO:

SURFACE WATER QUALITY DIVISION
KNAPPS CENTRE
PO BOX 30273
LANSING MI 48909-7773

T E L E C O P Y C O V E R S H E E T

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

NAME:

FIRM: USDA - Forest Service - Attn: UFP

PHONE NO:

FAX NUMBER: 801 - 517 - 1021

FROM: David Hamilton

FIRM: SURFACE WATER QUALITY DIVISION

PHONE NO: 517-335-4176

FAX NUMBER: 517-373-9958

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 3

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES, PLEASE CALL BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENTS:

ORIGINAL: ☐ Will Not Follow ☒ Will Be Mailed ☐ Will Be Delivered

RECEIVED

MAY 24 2000

QP 0100e
(0/95)

220

STATE OF MICHIGAN

JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

"Better Service for a Better Environment"

HOLLISTER BUILDING, PO BOX 30473, LANSING MI 48909-7973

INTERNET: www.deq.state.mi.us

RUSSELL J. HARDING, Director

REPLY TO: 220

SURFACE WATER QUALITY DIVISION
KNAPPS CENTRE
PO BOX 30273
LANSING MI 48909-7773

May 24, 2000

United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service
Content Analysis Enterprise Team, Attn: UFP
Building 2, Suite 295
Amelia Earhart Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Content Analysis Enterprise Team:

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Surface Water Quality Division (SWQD), has reviewed the proposed Unified Federal Policy for Ensuring a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management. We welcome the federal government's willingness to join us as an active player in watershed management in Michigan. Federally managed lands constitute approximately 15 percent of Michigan's land area and are in 36 of our major watersheds. Federal agencies have a major role to play in watershed management to restore and protect Michigan's water quality. For the partnership to be effective, the federal agencies should work with the state in developing time schedules for assessments and other activities.

We look forward to the federal agencies becoming partners with us and with local governments in the following watershed management activities, as identified in the proposed policy:

- Cooperating in conducting watershed assessments.
- Assisting in watershed restoration efforts.
- Defining priority watersheds and watersheds designated for special protection.
- Addressing nonpoint sources of pollution.
- Developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in impaired watersheds.
- Improving federal agency compliance with the water quality requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.
- Assessing federal agency policies and procedures for land use that affect water quality.

The SWQD has found the active involvement of local government to be extremely important to a watershed planning process. While the proposed policy recognizes this, it is not clear if or how the federal agencies will take into account state and local

EQP 0100e
(Rev. 1/96)

CAET RECEIVED

MAY 24 2000

government readiness to proceed when scheduling federal watershed assessment and planning work. For example, the federal agencies may be ready to proceed with assessment or planning before there is recognition of the need at the local level, or the agencies may be ready to proceed in a TMDL watershed that the state has scheduled for work several years in the future. The proposed policy should indicate that scheduling of watershed assessments and planning take into account state and local government priorities and readiness to proceed.

Similarly, in the event that a watershed plan already exists, either the federal watershed plan should be consistent with that plan or the federal agencies should engage the local governments into a process to update the plan.

When the federal agencies are ready to proceed with a watershed-based approach to land and resource management in Michigan, they may contact me to obtain state involvement. We look forward to sharing our experience in watershed management with federal agencies in Michigan. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Mr. Steve Eldredge, Chief, Program Support Section, at 517-335-4177, or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

David A. Hamilton, Chief
Surface Water Quality Division
517-335-4176

dah:se:vw
cc: Mr. Arthur R. Nash Jr., Deputy Director, MDEQ
Mr. Steve Eldredge, MDEQ
Ms. Susan Benzie, MDEQ

CAET RECEIVED
MAY 24 2000