



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I

5 POST OFFICE SQUARE SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

April 22, 2019

Emily Boedecker, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier VT 05620-3522

Re: Approach to Reporting on Lake Champlain TMDL Implementation Progress

Dear Commissioner Boedecker:

Thank you for your letter dated April 1, 2019, describing how the State plans to report on Lake Champlain TMDL implementation progress moving forward. We think the annual report you describe will efficiently and effectively address the reporting requirements included in the TMDL Accountability Framework. In addition to documenting work that's been completed, and the estimated phosphorus reduction achieved by sub-watershed, the annual report will include progress on the implementation tables in the tactical basin plans (Phase 2 implementation plans) as specified in the TMDL Accountability Framework.

EPA plans to issue report cards documenting progress to implement tactical basin plans at the half-way point (year 2.5) and the end-of-cycle point (year 5) for each Phase 2 plan, as described in the Accountability Framework. As you know, the half-way point for the Phase 2 plans for the Missisquoi and Lamoille watersheds is coming up in July 2019. We understand that your reporting process will cover work completed each state fiscal year (through June 30) and builds in the time necessary to complete data quality assurance and information assembly, such that the final report would be submitted to EPA the following January. We anticipate that your January 2020 report will cover progress for the first half of the implementation period for the Missisquoi and Lamoille Phase 2 plans. Accordingly, we anticipate issuing our first report card for these tactical basin plans in early 2020. S.As you acknowledge in your letter, we also are planning to issue a separate report card this summer regarding progress on the three outstanding Phase 1 milestones.

Thank you for consulting with us as you seek to improve both the efficiency and comprehensiveness of your reporting process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melville P. Coté, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melville P. Coté, Jr., Chief
Surface Water Branch

cc (via email): Julie Moore, VT ANR
Pete LaFlamme, VT DEC
Emily Bird, VT DEC