



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912**

September 22, 2020

Neil Kamman, Director
Water Investment Division
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier VT 05620-3522

Dear Mr. Kamman:

I am pleased to approve the Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program Plan for Vermont dated September 4, 2020, that your staff developed in response to guidelines for the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 grant program. Vermont's NPS program incorporates the key components for effective state NPS management programs referenced in the *Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines* (April 2013). We believe Vermont's program includes meaningful goals and milestones, effective partnerships and a framework that ensures Section 319 funding, Section 319 leveraged funding, State nonpoint source funding, technical support and other resources will be directed to the state's highest priority water quality issues and NPS watershed projects.

Vermont's NPS Management Program plan includes a thoughtful list of actions and annual milestones that demonstrate the state's commitment to restoring NPS-impaired waters and protecting unimpaired and healthy waters over the next five years. The state effectively uses statewide programs and watershed projects to address the most compelling NPS problems in the state, guided by tactical basin plans and other planning processes. Watershed projects are supported by a strong network of NPS program partners. We are pleased that this NPS Management Program plan update also fully incorporates and reflects the many new Vermont water quality laws, regulations and policies adopted by the state since the time of the prior NPS Plan update in 2015, including Vermont's Act 64, Act 76, and new policies on the use of State Revolving Fund revenues for NPS projects.

We commend your staff, particularly Helen Carr, along with Emily Bird and Ethan Swift, on their exemplary work on updating Vermont's NPS management program. My staff in the

Watersheds and Nonpoint Source Management Section look forward to assisting the state with your ongoing efforts to control and prevent NPS pollution.

Sincerely,

Ken Moraff, Director
Water Division

cc: Helen Carr, VTDEC
Emily Bird, VTDEC
Ethan Swift, VTDEC
MaryJo Feuerbach, EPA
Eric Perkins, EPA