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Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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FEB 10 2010

The Honorable Jim Suttle, Mayor
City of Omaha
5600 South 10th Street
Omaha, NE 68107-3501

Re: City of Omaha Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Approval

Dear Mayor Suttle,

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the City of Omaha's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) LTCP submitted to the Department on September 25, 2009 in advance of the required October 1, 2009 deadline dictated by the State of Nebraska Complaint and Compliance Order by Consent (Administrative Consent Order, Case No. 2710). On January 8, 2010, the Department provided the City with comments, concerns, and questions regarding the LTCP. The City provided their response on January 21, 2010. (See Attachment.) The Department has reviewed the City's response and agrees with the City's approach.

The City of Omaha's LTCP is based on meeting Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1342), amended on December 15, 2000, which includes the following:

(q) Combined Sewer Overflow.

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMITS, ORDERS, AND DECREES - Each permit, order, or decree issued pursuant to this Act after the date of enactment of this subsection for a discharge from a municipal combined storm and sanitary sewer shall conform to the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy signed by the Administrator on April 11, 1994.

The City's LTCP proposes to meet the CSO Control Policy's Presumption Approach of no more than an average of four untreated overflows per year or no less than 85 percent capture of combined sewage during wet weather. The proposed controls also meet the Demonstrative Approach of the CSO Control Policy by not precluding water quality standards for *E. coli* bacteria from being met.

The cost for implementing the LTCP is estimated by the City to be \$1,662,224,000 in April 2009 dollars. The schedule provided in the LTCP shows the City's intent to complete the CSO controls within the 15 year implementation period (October 1, 2024) dictated by the Administrative Consent Order, Case No. 2710.

As a result of implementing the LTCP, nine CSO outfalls will be deactivated, approximately 5,735 acres will undergo sewer separation, and approximately 8,571 million gallons of combined sewage will be either captured or treated during an average year. Specific CSO controls include, but not limited to:

- Improvements to the Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Plant to increase full treatment (through secondary) and provide equivalent to primary treatment, disinfection, and dechlorination to up to 180 million gallons per day.
- Extensive sewer separation throughout the combined sewer service area to reduce the flow of storm water in to the combined system.
- A deep tunnel 5.4 miles long and 17 feet in diameter to capture combined sewage from several CSO outfalls along the Missouri River and convey it to a treatment system.
- Two Retention Treatment Basins (RTBs), one at the Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Plant to treat sewage conveyed by the deep tunnel and another in the Saddle Creek Basin. Both will provide equivalent to primary treatment and disinfection / dechlorination in accordance with the requirements of the CSO policy.
- Two storage tanks to store combined sewage until treatment can be provided.
- Green Solutions incorporated throughout the combined sewer service area.

The City of Omaha's LTCP as noted in the comments from the Department in Attachment I also meets the requirements dictated in the City's CSO National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, NE0133680, pertaining to the development of this plan. A new permit will be drafted later this year for implementation of specific controls over the next 5 year period.

By this letter, NDEQ approves the City of Omaha LTCP, pursuant to paragraph 28 of the State of Nebraska Administrative Consent Order, Case 2710.

Sincerely,



Jay D. Ringenberg
Deputy Director, Programs
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

cc: ✓ Marty Grate, City of Omaha
Pat Nelson, CH2MHILL
Tom Heinemann, CH2MHILL
Art Spratlin, USEPA Region VII
Tony Petruska, USEPA Region VII