



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
[www.epa.gov/region08](http://www.epa.gov/region08)

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Ref: 8EPR-EP

Mr. Walt L. Baker, P.E.  
Director, Division of Water Quality  
Department of Environmental Quality  
195 North 1950 West  
P.O. Box 144870  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

Re: The State of Utah's 2012 and 2014 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Waterbody Lists

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for your submittal of the State of Utah's combined 2012/2014 Water Quality Integrated Report (IR) that includes the State's Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) lists of impaired waters (Section 303(d) lists) for 2012 and 2014. The Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 received this submittal on March 27, 2015. The EPA also received Utah's 2012/2014 assessment attribute and geographic information system (GIS) data, submitted with the Integrated Report. The EPA has completed its review of the State's Section 303(d) lists and supporting documentation and information.

Based on our review of both Section 303(d) lists, the EPA is taking a "partial approval/further review pending" action on Utah's 2012 and 2014 lists. Specifically, the EPA approves the State's decision to list all the waterbodies identified on Utah's list submissions, as well as the State's decision not to list certain waters. However, the EPA is taking no action at this time on Great Salt Lake and Six Mile Creek, which Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) indicates have insufficient data for an assessment. For the Great Salt Lake, the EPA is in the process of assembling and considering available data for this waterbody to determine if an assessment is possible, or if we agree that there are insufficient data for an assessment. For Six Mile Creek, a limited data-set is available that indicates this water body's recreational use may be impaired by pathogens. EPA understands the assessment methodology and data insufficiency issue which led to DWQ's decision not to list Six Mile Creek. However, the EPA expects DWQ's efforts to revise its assessment methodology will allow it to properly determine the condition of Six Mile Creek for the 2016 Integrated Report. Given these facts, EPA is deferring action on Great Salt Lake and Six Mile Creek with the expectation that these deferrals will be resolved as part of the Agency's action on Utah's 2016 Integrated Report and 303(d) list.

Further details of our "partial approval/further action pending" action are provided in the attachment, which describes the statutory and regulatory requirements of the CWA Section 303(d) list and a summary of the EPA's review of Utah's compliance with each requirement. The EPA's partial approval of Utah's 2012 and 2014 Section 303(d) lists extends to all waterbodies on the lists with the exception of those waters that are within Indian country, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1151.

The EPA appreciates the State of Utah's efforts to submit the final 2012/2014 Integrated Report. The

Agency commends Utah DWQ for its hard work in completing two public review processes for the Integrated Report, for making significant progress on data management revisions to support IR development, and for its ongoing efforts to revise the State's assessment methodology.

If you have questions about this decision, the most knowledgeable person on my staff is Karl Hermann and he may be reached at (303) 312-6628.

Sincerely,



Martin Hestmark  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Ecosystems Protection  
and Remediation

Attachment

cc: Erica Gaddis, UT DWQ  
Karl Hermann, EPA, 8-EPR-EP