



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

May 13, 2009

Dear Stakeholder:

SUBJECT: "Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for *E. coli* in Pine and Mill Creeks, located in Berrien and Van Buren Counties" Information Meeting

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is developing a TMDL for *E. coli* in the Pine and Mill Creeks watersheds, located in the vicinity of Hartford, Michigan. *E. coli* is a pathogenic organism indicative of fecal contamination. Elevated concentrations of *E. coli* impair the designated uses of total body contact recreation and partial body contact recreation and pose health risks to humans if the contaminated water is ingested.

The DEQ is developing a TMDL for the above watersheds as required under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The federal CWA requires a TMDL to be written for water bodies not meeting Michigan's water quality standards. The purpose of the TMDL is to gather data, identify problems, and develop appropriate goals and reasonable assurance that will work toward restoring the designated uses to the water bodies. You have been identified as an important stakeholder in the draft TMDL process.

We would like to discuss the TMDL process and associated activities with you. To accomplish this, we are inviting you to a meeting on June 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Van Buren County Intermediate School District Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Road, Lawrence, Michigan. A copy of the draft TMDL will be available beginning May 25, 2009, by contacting Ms. Denise Page at 517-335-6969, or paged@michigan.gov, or on the DEQ Web site at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3686_3728---,00.html.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact me at 517-373-6794, or at alexanderc2@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Christine Alexander, Aquatic Biologist
Lake Michigan Unit
Surface Water Assessment Section
Water Bureau

cc: Mr. Greg Dannefell, Kalamazoo District Supervisor, WB, DEQ
Ms. Brenda Sayles/TMDL File, WB, DEQ