UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
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NOV 29 2017

Mr. Thomas Frick
Director
Division of Environmental Assessment & Restoration
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mail Station 3000
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Subject: Approval of Amendment to Florida Statewide Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load Submittal

Dear Mr. Frick:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has concluded its review of the amendments to Florida's Statewide Mercury TMDL submitted on July 7, 2017. Based upon our review, we have determined that the statutory requirements of the Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) have been met and hereby approve coverage of 25 waterbodies under the previously approved mercury TMDL.

The enclosed document (see "Amendment to Florida Statewide Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load") summarizes the elements of the review which were found to support the EPA's approval of the addition of these waterbodies. If you have any comments or questions relating to this action, please contact me at (404) 562-9469 or Mr. Joe Pohnan of my staff at (404)-562-9731.

Sincerely,

Mary S. Walker
Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Kenneth Hayman, FDEP
Ms. Stacey Cowley, FDEP
Mr. Daryll Joyner, FDEP
Ms. Erin Rasnake, FDEP

Amendment to Florida's Statewide Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
All Counties, Florida
TMDL ID 53320
July 7, 2017

A. TMDL Background:

On November 23, 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency approved a statewide TMDL prepared by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to address mercury impairments in Florida waters. On September 16, 2014, the EPA amended its decision to include additional waterbodies submitted by FDEP as an appendix to the TMDL. The amendment included marine waterbodies originally intended to be covered under the mercury TMDL, as they were included in the development of the TMDL, but that due to an oversight were not included in the original TMDL report submitted to the EPA for approval.

The TMDL target in the original TMDL report was based on fish consumption since that is a primary source of human exposure to mercury. The statewide TMDL was ultimately represented as percent reductions and was derived under the assumptions that there was a linear relationship between mercury emitted, concentration of mercury in water the column, and mercury concentrations in fish tissue (the precise relationship can vary between species).

The statewide mercury TMDL allocations approved by the EPA are as follows:

Parameter	TMDL (% reduction)	WLA for Wastewater (Kg/year)	WLA for NPDES Stormwater	LA (% reduction)	MOS
Mercury	86	23 kg*	**	86	Implicit

* Based on all readily available data, the Department estimated the current permitted mercury load being discharged to waters of the state. This value represents less than 0.5 % of the total mercury load from point and nonpoint sources in Florida. Mercury minimization is expected for major facilities.

** NPDES MS4 Permits may require reductions to meet the TMDL goal if sources of mercury under the direct control of a MS4 permittee or co-permittee are found to exist.

B. Purpose of Proposed Amendment:

The current amendment, submitted to the EPA on July 7, 2017, addresses the addition of 25 waterbodies to the current list of 1132 waters that are verified as impaired for mercury in the appendix to the TMDL. This amendment will add waterbody identification (WBID) numbers that were not in existence at the time of the development of the statewide TMDL, updating the list of waters covered.

The WBID boundary of the 25 waterbodies added in this amendment action are the result of resegmentation of WBIDs previously included in the original TMDL report. Therefore, these WBIDs represent newly partitioned assessment areas as opposed to new impairments. Formally including these WBIDs in the TMDL appendix will allow them to be listed in Category 4a. The following maps show that each new WBID is within the bounds of a WBID that was included in the original TMDL.

C. Justification for Revision:

The main assumptions used in the development of the original TMDL remain applicable for the 25 WBIDs addressed by this action. There are no new discrete points sources (not accounted for in original model) that discharge to or would cause local deposition in these waters, and existing sources have had no effective increase in mercury discharge rates. Therefore, the existing statewide TMDL also applies to the WBIDs identified in the table below.

Additional Waterbody IDs (WBID) listed as impaired for Mercury

WBID	Waterbody Name	Waterbody Type	Water Class
1006va	Wakulla River Below Highway 98 Bridge	Stream	3f
1006vb	Wakulla River Below Big Boggy Branch	Stream	3f
1223a	Dickerson Bay	Estuary	3m
1248d	Direct Runoff to Bay	Estuary	3m
1513f	Double Branch (Estuarine Segment)	Estuary	2
1601a	Tampa Bay Channel	Estuary	2
3258a1	Estero Bay Wetlands	Estuary	2
3258b2	Hendry Creek	Estuary	3m
3258c4	Mullock Creek (Marine Segment)	Estuary	3m
3258eb	Imperial River (Marine Segment)	Estuary	3m
3258h2	Spring Creek (Marine Segment)	Estuary	3m
3278q1	Clam Bay	Estuary	2
3278q2	Moorings Bay System	Estuary	2
3278r1	Haldeman Creek (Lower)	Estuary	3m