



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott Commissioner

January 17, 2020

Dennis Deziel, Regional Administrator
EPA New England, Region 1
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: Withdrawal of 24 assessment units from consideration in the 2018 303(d) list.

Dear Mr. Deziel:

On August 8, 2019, NHDES submitted its 2018 303(d) list to EPA for approval (revised January 3, 2020). Since the submittal of the 2014 list, NHDES has been proposing the deimpairment of a number of assessment units in the Great Bay Estuary, as described in the document entitled, "Technical Support Document for the Great Bay Estuary Aquatic Life Integrity Use Support Assessments, 2018 305(b) Report/303(d) List." These are the same deimpairments that were proposed in the 2016 303(d) list that was submitted on November 30, 2017 and deferred by EPA on June 22, 2018.

NHDES now respectfully requests to withdraw from further consideration the following assessment zones, and their respective parameters, on the 2018 303(d) list: Little Bay, Bellamy River, Upper Piscataqua River, Portsmouth Harbor, Little Harbor/Back Channel and Great Bay assessment zones (see the table on the next page for specific assessment units).

The reasons for this request include the following:

- Because of delays in data processing and quality control, only one year of data was available for the 2018 assessment. By addressing these assessment units in 2020, three additional years of data will be available to compare to the results of the 2016 assessment.
- NHDES has begun the process of assessing the 2020 list and a draft should be forthcoming within the next 6 months, therefore, any delay in the assessment of these waterbodies will be short lived.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (603) 271-0677 or thomas.o'donovan@des.nh.gov, or Ted Diers at (603) 271-3289 or ted.diers@des.nh.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas O'Donovan, P.E.
Director, Water Division

cc (electronically distributed):

EPA -- Ken Moraff, Mel Cote, Ralph Abele; NHDES -- Ted Diers, Matt Wood; NHDOJ -- Allen Brooks

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Assessment Zones and Assessment Units proposed for removal from consideration --

Assessment Zone	Assessment Unit	Waterbody Name
Bellamy River	NHEST600030903-01-01	BELLAMY RIVER NORTH
Bellamy River	NHEST600030903-01-03	BELLAMY RIVER SOUTH CLEMENT POINT
Bellamy River	NHEST600030903-01-04	BELLAMY RIVER SOUTH
Great Bay	NHEST600030904-02	GREAT BAY PROHIB SZ1
Great Bay	NHEST600030904-03	GREAT BAY PROHIB SZ2
Great Bay	NHEST600030904-04-02	CROMMET CREEK
Great Bay	NHEST600030904-04-03	PICKERING BROOK
Great Bay	NHEST600030904-04-04	FABYAN POINT
Great Bay	NHEST600030904-04-05	GREAT BAY - COND APPR
Great Bay	NHEST600030904-04-06	ADAMS POINT SOUTH - COND APP
Little Bay	NHEST600030904-06-10	ADAMS POINT MOORING FIELD SZ
Little Bay	NHEST600030904-06-11	ADAMS POINT TRIB
Little Bay	NHEST600030904-06-12	U LITTLE BAY (SOUTH)
Little Bay	NHEST600030904-06-14	LOWER LITTLE BAY MARINA SZ
Little Bay	NHEST600030904-06-15	LOWER LITTLE BAY GENERAL SULLIVAN BRIDGE
Little Bay	NHEST600030904-06-18	LOWER LITTLE BAY
Little Bay	NHEST600030904-06-19	UPPER LITTLE BAY
Little Harbor/Back Channel	NHEST600031001-05	BACK CHANNEL
Little Harbor/Back Channel	NHEST600031001-08	WENTWORTH-BY-THE-SEA
Little Harbor/Back Channel	NHEST600031002-02	LITTLE HARBOR
Portsmouth Harbor	NHEST600031001-11	UPPER PORTSMOUTH HARBOR-NH
Upper Piscataqua River	NHEST600031001-01-01	UPPER PISCATAQUA RIVER-NH-NORTH
Upper Piscataqua River	NHEST600031001-01-02	DOVER WWTF SZ-NH
Upper Piscataqua River	NHEST600031001-01-03	UPPER PISCATAQUA RIVER-NH-SOUTH