



## REGION 1

BOSTON, MA 02109

February 24, 2026

Ms. Katie S. Dykes  
Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

Thank you for your Department's submittal of the Connecticut Statewide Bacteria TMDL and 23 appendices on December 29, 2025. We appreciate your involvement with our office to finalize these TMDLs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the document entitled "A Statewide Total Maximum Daily Load Analysis for Bacteria Impaired Waters," dated December 23, 2025. It is my pleasure to approve the 101 TMDLs for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) to apply to the freshwater assessment units as described in the TMDL core document and appendices. EPA has determined, as set forth in the enclosed review document, that these TMDLs meet the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and EPA's implementing regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 130.

As described in the enclosed review, EPA is approving the TMDLs which use Connecticut's existing bacteria criteria (see Core Document Section 2.2). In addition, CT is planning to approve revised bacteria criteria in line with EPA's 2012 304(a) recommended recreational water quality criteria. Should CT adopt and EPA approve revised bacteria criteria identical to those specified in CT's submission, EPA is approving the accordingly revised TMDLs (see Core Document Section 2.3). CT DEEP will not have to seek separate EPA approval in the event the new, approved WQ criteria are identical to those specified in this submittal but will inform EPA promptly via letter once the new bacteria criteria and, thus, the new TMDLs are in effect. The revised criteria will become the basis for bacteria TMDLs submitted to EPA in the future.

CT DEEP's efforts will help restore water quality and prevent further degradation of these, and adjacent, waterbody segments. My staff and I look forward to continued cooperation with the Connecticut DEEP in exercising our shared responsibility of implementing the requirements under Section 303(d) of the CWA. If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Andrea Traviglia at 617-918-1993 or have your staff contact Ivy Mlsna of my staff at (617) 918-1311.

Sincerely,

Ken Moraff, Director  
Water Division

Enclosure

cc:

Rebecca Jascot, CT DEEP

Andrea Traviglia, US EPA

Ivy Mlsna, US EPA