

- ▶ **Legislative Chapter 551, §7**, which corrects an error with regard to the boundary between freshwater and saltwater in the classification of the Denny's River.
- ▶ **Legislative Chapter 574**, which revises Class AA and Class A to allow discharges intended to assist in the restoration of endangered Atlantic Salmon.
- ▶ **Legislative Chapter 663**, which upgrades the use classification for numerous water body segments. In all cases, both the previous and new use classifications provide for the full goal uses specified at §101(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act.
- ▶ **DEP Rule, Chapter 579**, which provides a quantitative methodology for interpreting Maine's narrative biological criteria and aquatic life uses for rivers and streams.

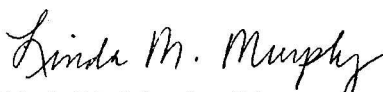
EPA's approval of Maine's surface water quality standards revisions does not extend to waters that are within Indian territories and lands. EPA is taking no action to approve or disapprove the State's standards revisions with respect to those waters at this time. EPA will retain responsibility under §303(c) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for those waters. The revisions summarized above are further described in *Summary: Changes to Maine's Water Quality Criteria*, ME DEP, May 13, 2004. In making this approval, we have a few comments concerning Chapters 418 and 574 (see attachment A).

Also, please note the following:

- ▶ **Legislative Chapter 418, §420 (1-B)(B)** - We are still evaluating this provision to determine whether it constitutes a revision of Maine's water quality standards; therefore we are not yet taking action with respect to this provision.
- ▶ Finally, we have determined that the remaining provisions of Chapter 551, and the additional Chapters submitted by DEP, are not new or revised water quality standards and therefore are not subject to EPA review and action under §303(c) of the Clean Water Act (see Attachment B).

My staff and I look forward to continued cooperation with the ME DEP in exercising our shared responsibility of implementing the water quality standards requirements under the Clean Water Act. If you have any questions on these issues, please do not hesitate to call me at 617-918-1501 or contact Steve Silva, Director of EPA New England's Water Quality and Maine Programs, at 617-918-1561.

Sincerely,


Linda M. Murphy, Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection