



January 29, 2018

Subject: Correction of bacteria criteria for Grand Portage Water Quality standards

Dear Interested Parties:

The Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa ("the Band") formally submitted water quality standards ("WQS") for final action to the US Environmental Protection Agency ("US EPA") in April, 2017. The US EPA approved the majority of the WQS in September; however the bacteria criteria were not approved due to inconsistencies in the time period for determining the geometric mean and statistical threshold value.

The Band has corrected the inconsistency in the criteria and intends to resubmit them to US EPA for final action. Under the Band's Water Resources Ordinance and applicable federal regulations, the Band is required to give public notice of these changes and provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment on them.

CRITERIA CHANGE

Pollutant

Escherichia coliform ("E. coli.")

Unapproved Criteria

Bacteria criteria in waters protected for primary recreational contact are based upon EPA's most recent 2012 bacteria criteria recommendations. Compliance will be based on both the statistical threshold value and the monthly geometric mean. The following bacteria criteria apply to all waters of the Reservation:

(a) The bacteriological density shall not exceed the monthly geometric mean of 126 cfu *E. coli*, and; the statistical threshold value of 410 cfu *E. coli* per 100 ml more than ten percent of the time during 90-day period.¹

Proposed Criteria

Bacteria criteria in waters protected for all three categories of primary contact recreational use are based upon EPA's most recent 2012 bacteria criteria recommendations. Compliance will be based on both the statistical threshold value and a 90-day geometric mean. The following bacteria criteria apply to all waters of the Reservation:

(a) The bacteriological density shall not exceed a 90-day geometric mean of 126 cfu *E. coli* per 100 ml, and; the statistical threshold value of 410 cfu *E. coli* per 100 ml more than ten percent of the time during 90-day period.²

NEXT STEPS

The Band intends to submit the corrected criteria to US EPA for final action and welcomes any comments you may have. Written comments provided for our consideration must be postmarked by March 2, 2018. Please send comments to: Margaret Watkins, Grand Portage Water Quality Specialist, PO Box 428 Grand Portage, MN 55605. If you have any questions please contact Margaret Watkins, Water Quality Specialist, at: (218) 475-2026, or mwatkins@grandportage.com

Sincerely,



Tony Swader

Trust Lands Administrator

¹ A beach action value of 235 cfu *E. Coli* per 100 ml as a single sample maximum must not be exceeded for the purpose of issuing beach advisories.

² A beach action value of 235 cfu *E. Coli* per 100 ml as a single sample maximum must not be exceeded for the purpose of issuing beach advisories.