



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

JAN 09 2018

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Terry Desmarais, Jr., P.E.
City Engineer
City of Portsmouth
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Re: City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Consent Decree 09-cv-283-PB

Dear Mr. Desmarais:

The City of Portsmouth ("City") submitted the *Chemically-Enhanced Primary Treatment Facility Pilot Study Report*, prepared by Underwood Engineers, Inc., dated December 22, 2017 ("CEPT Study Report"), to EPA for review and approval per Section IV, paragraph 8.a. of the Second Modification of Consent Decree 09-cv-283-PB. The CEPT Study Report documents the results of full-scale testing of coagulant/polymer combinations to optimize performance of the chemically-enhanced primary treatment plant during secondary plant construction. The results of the pilot study demonstrated that the chemicals tested did not achieve at least a 10% reduction of effluent total suspended solids. Underwood Engineers recommended that the City continue to use the historic chemical combination of Aries 2076 and Aries 2034 at Peirce Island, and EPA, with the concurrence of the NHDES, approves the report and finding per paragraphs 8.a., and 14 through 19 of the Consent Decree.

If you have any questions, please contact Tonia Bandrowicz at (617) 918-1734 or have the City's technical staff contact Joy Hilton at (617) 918-1877.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen McGuire".

Karen McGuire, Acting Director
Office of Environmental Stewardship

cc: Mark Pollins, Director of Water Enforcement, USEPA
Joy Hilton, USEPA Region 1
Tracy L. Wood, NHDES, Wastewater Engineering Bureau Administrator
Allen Brooks, Esq., Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Bureau
Chief
Tonia Bandrowicz, Senior Enforcement Counsel, USEPA Region 1
David Gordon, Esq., US Department of Justice
Tom Irwin, Esq., Conservation Law Foundation
John P. Bohenko, City Manager
Suzanne Woodland, Deputy City Attorney
Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works
Nancy Colbert-Puff, Deputy City Manager