



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

April 14, 2004

Dawn Gallagher, Commissioner  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
#17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

**SUBJECT: EPA Review of Chapters 227, 245, and 317 Water Quality Standard Revisions**

Dear Commissioner Gallagher:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of Chapters 227, 245, and 317, as required by 33 U.S.C. 1313(c).

Chapter	Title
227	An Act to List Agriculture as a Designated Use in Water Quality Standards
245	An Act to Amend Certain Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection
317	An Act to Reclassify Certain Waters of the State

These legislative chapters revised the surface water quality standards administered by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) Bureau of Land & Water Quality, and were certified by Maine's Assistant Attorney General in the Natural Resources Division on December 17, 2003 as having been duly adopted pursuant to state law. EPA is continuing its review of Chapter 418 and the other chapters from the Department's August 26, 2003 submittal of legislation enacted by the First Regular Session of the 121<sup>st</sup> Legislature.

First, I thank you and your staff for an impressive effort with regard to the upgrading of use classifications for numerous water body segments. In many cases waters were reclassified to Class AA or SA, Maine's most protective classifications for freshwater and saltwater respectively. These reclassifications will significantly strengthen Maine's ability to protect its waters and further progress towards achieving the objectives of the Clean Water Act (CWA).