



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Watershed Management Division
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Agency of Natural Resources

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March 10, 2015

Sylvia Knight
Charlotte, VT 05445

Dear Ms. Knight,

I am writing on behalf of Commissioner Mears, who thanks you for your comments and concerns regarding the use of watershed planning documents by the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council. The [Vermont Surface Water Management Strategy](#) was prepared to address pollutants and stressors that affect uses and values of Vermont Surface Waters. The Strategy describes a coordinated basin-specific planning process designed to enhance the protection, maintenance, and restoration of surface waters.

Basin planning is required by both federal and state law, and directs state agencies to prepare basin plans that 1) focus on priority issues and geographic areas, 2) identify priority point and nonpoint water quality problems, 3) consider alternatives and recommend control solutions and funding sources. Basin and watershed planning requirements are found in a number of statutory and regulatory provisions, including but not limited to 10 V.S.A. §§ 1251, 1253 and 1258, and Section 1-02.D of the Vermont Water Quality Standards (VWQS).

You are correct that Rick Levey is our Department's representative to VPAC. Rick works within our Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program, which implements Vermont's basin planning efforts for our Watershed Management Division. He had a hand in the development of the aforementioned Surface Water Management Strategy and the Tactical Planning Process, and to my understanding is aware of the current approach by which basin plans will integrate implementation of phosphorus reduction for Lake Champlain and other waterbodies.

Also, in response to your second point, we have been notified that the [Vermont Regulations for Control of Pesticides](#) are in pre-rulemaking stakeholder review and the proposed revisions are being reviewed and circulated accordingly within DEC.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions regarding basin planning. On behalf of Commissioner Mears, thank-you for your continued efforts to protect and enhance Vermont's environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Kamman".

Neil Kamman, Manager
Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program