REGION 10
SEATTLE, WA 98101

June 15, 2026

Dr. Mary Anne Nelson, Administrator
Surface Water and Wastewater Division
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton Street
Boise, ID 83706-1255

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed its Clean Water Act review of the Upper Salmon River Subbasin temperature Total Maximum Daily Load for the Pole Creek assessment unit ID17060201SL085_03, submitted by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on April 23, 2026. The TMDL addresses one assessment unit in Pole Creek with a newly identified temperature impairment as summarized in the table below.

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Pole Creek-source to mouth	ID17060201SL085_03	Temperature[1]

[1]*Newly identified impairment*

The EPA is approving this TMDL in Pole Creek within the Upper Salmon River Subbasin. This approval letter applies only to the temperature TMDL for the Pole Creek assessment unit 17060201SL085_03 identified in the table above. The TMDL meets the statutory and regulatory requirements found in section 303(d) of the CWA and the EPA's implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 130. The EPA's review indicates that the allocations have been established at levels that, when fully implemented, will lead to attainment of applicable water quality standards. As such, IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for temperature.

In the submittal letter dated April 23, 2026, IDEQ also included a table with proposed listing changes for several other waterbodies. The EPA is not acting on these other proposed listing changes at this time. These proposed listing changes will be evaluated and approved or disapproved under the EPA's CWA section 303(d) authority when they are submitted as part of the integrated report listing cycle.

IDEQ's submittal also includes an implementation plan for the TMDL. As you know, the EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation plans under section 303(d) of the CWA, and therefore, the EPA is not taking action on the plan. Implementation is the critical next step to improve water quality, and the EPA encourages IDEQ to continue its work with responsible parties on TMDL implementation.

The EPA appreciates the work of Cherie Windsor and Alex Bell in developing and completing the Upper Salmon River Subbasin temperature TMDL project. The EPA also appreciates the continued cooperation by IDEQ as we work towards the common goal of addressing impaired waters in the State of Idaho.

If you have any comments or questions on this agency action, please feel free to contact me at shaw.hanh@epa.gov or have your staff contact Kati Carberry at (208) 378-5771 or by email at carberry.kathryn@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

HANH SHAW

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Hanh Shaw, Manager
Standards, Assessment and Watershed Management Branch
Water Division

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