NOV 2 4 2014

Ryan Benefield
Acting Director
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

RE: Holly Creek Environmental Improvement Project for Alcoa, Inc., Bauxite, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Benefield:

I am pleased to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the temporary revision to the Arkansas water quality standards, Regulation No. 2, Regulation Establishing Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Arkansas. These revisions, specific to Holly Creek, where adopted by the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC) and became effective as State law on July 22, 2011. The amendment was initially submitted to EPA on September 15, 2011. During 2012 and 2013, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service coordinated on a mussel study to determine if the revised selenium concentrations would affect threatened or endangered species.

This submission represents the first time the APC&EC has utilized the statutory provision in Regulation No. 2. Appendix B, providing for an Environmental Improvement Project (EIP). The EPA's review of this and future EIPs is on a case-by-case basis. In today's action, EPA is approving the temporary criterion for Holly Creek subject to the outcome of consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act.

I appreciate the APC&EC's and the ADEQ's efforts to development this temporary criterion. I also appreciate the cooperative and constructive way in which the ADEQ staff has worked with my staff during the revision process. If you need additional detail concerning this letter and TSD, please call me at (214) 665-3187, or contact Russell Nelson at (214) 665-6646.

Sincerely,

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure