



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Robert G. Hoyt  
*Director*

September 9, 2013

Matthew M. Stover  
Science Services Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Blvd, Suite 540  
Baltimore, MD 21230-1718

Re: Use of Montgomery County Data for Tier II Designation of Streams

Dear Mr. Stover:

I am following up on a request earlier this year about the use of Montgomery County data by the State for identifying local high quality streams. There has been much recent interest by numerous stakeholders in the county to assure that our highest quality streams are recognized at the State level.

In April 2013, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) submitted its most recent biological monitoring data and requested that this data be used for state designation to protect highest quality local streams. This was for both Tier II stream designation and for the potential reclassification of streams. You shared with us the MDE procedures for classification of Class III waters ('trout' streams), including the use of two specific types of cold water aquatic insects. You also explained how the Tier II studies are done separately from the Integrated Report (List of Impaired Waters) process. Tier II waters are usually designated coincident with the completion of the quality assurance of the recent year of state monitoring data collected through the Maryland Biological Stream Survey program.

Subsequently, DEP staff re-analyzed its aquatic insect samples and sent you the available data, which documented those county streams where the two specific indicator species had been found. These were found in an unnamed stream within Blockhouse Point Conservation Park in the Lower Potomac; in an unnamed tributary to Muddy Branch just north of River Road and across from Blockhouse Point Conservation Park; at certain stations within the Bennett Creek watershed; and in the Upper Patuxent River above Long Corner Road.

We welcome the opportunity to share our locally-based data to augment the more limited data available at the State level and to provide better representation of conditions in our streams. I am once again offering our assistance if needed for further progress in determining the best way to use County data for the Tier II designation process and the Integrated Report (List of Impaired Waters) process.

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If you have any questions concerning our monitoring data, please contact Keith Van Ness, Senior Aquatic Ecologist at 240-777-7726 or via email at [keith.vanness@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:keith.vanness@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Sincerely,



Robert G. Hoyt  
Director

cc: Keith Van Ness, DEP