



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1  
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100  
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

July 31, 2012

Mr. John P. Bohenko, City Manager  
Office of City Manager  
Portsmouth City Hall  
1 Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Dear Mr. Bohenko:

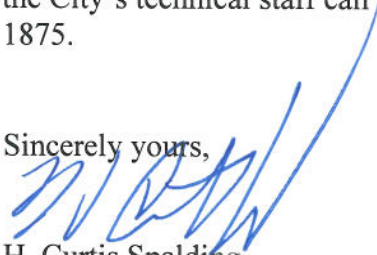
I am writing this letter to update you on the EPA's progress in drafting the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Portsmouth's Peirce Island treatment plant and to specifically inform you of our current thinking regarding the limit on total nitrogen.

Regarding overall progress on the draft permit, members of my staff made a site visit to the wastewater treatment plant on May 17<sup>th</sup> to tour the wastewater treatment plant and the pilot plants, and to gather information necessary to complete the draft permit. Following the visit the City provided additional information in a timely manner. Drafting of the permit and fact sheet has proceeded relatively quickly and we expect to have a working draft completed within the next month, and we hope to public notice the draft permit by the end of the summer.

As you are aware, we currently expect that the draft permit will include a monthly average total nitrogen limit of 8 mg/l. It is our understanding from you that a limit of 8 mg/l is within the expected capability of the technologies being evaluated to provide secondary treatment at Peirce Island.

I trust you will share this information with relevant city officials. If you have any questions, please contact Carl DeLoi of our Wetlands and Information Branch at (617) 918-1581 or have the City's technical staff call Brian Pitt, Chief of our Municipal Permits Section at (617) 918-1875.

Sincerely yours,



H. Curtis Spalding  
Regional Administrator

cc: Mayor Eric Spear  
Thomas Burack, NHDES Commissioner