



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

AUG 05 2013

Mr. Bryan Gruesbeck
Town of Pittsboro
P.O. Box 759
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312

RE: Achievement of Area-Wide Optimization Program Performance Goals During 2012

Dear Mr. Gruesbeck:

Congratulations on meeting goals set by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources for optimized drinking water treatment plant performance for turbidity during 2012! We at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are proud of your accomplishment. It represents protection against waterborne disease that extends beyond our regulatory standards, and it signifies a commitment to excellence that is a cornerstone of the Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP).

Thanks to your hard work and the work of many other dedicated water treatment professionals like you, 2012 was a banner year for AWOP in the Southeast. Within EPA Region 4, we saw the number of people served by water systems meeting turbidity goals for optimized performance climb to more than 9.3 million, an all-time high. As AWOP continues to evolve to consider distribution system management issues, including control of disinfection byproducts, we expect to demonstrate increasing success in this area too. Nationally, the program continues to bring together a robust network of water system, state, and EPA personnel that are united in their pursuit of a mutually beneficial public health objective – ensuring the safest possible water for customers of public water systems. It is clear that water systems investing in AWOP are some of those best positioned to deal with the challenges posed by new regulations and aging infrastructure.

The EPA's ability to demonstrate the value of AWOP depends on the willingness of water systems like yours to try new approaches to water system management and operation, and we are counting on this continued commitment from you in the years ahead. Again, congratulations on your success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becky B. Allenbach", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Becky B. Allenbach
Chief
Safe Drinking Water Branch

cc: Ms. Jessica Godreau
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources