



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

JUN 14 2016

Mr. Mike Doyle
Florence Water-Wastewater Department – Cypress Creek WTP
P.O. Box 1023
Florence, Alabama 35631

Re: Achievement of Area-Wide Optimization Program Performance Goals During 2015

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Please accept my congratulations on your success in meeting goals set by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for optimized drinking water treatment plant performance for turbidity during 2015! In meeting the goals, you provided customers of your system with protection against waterborne disease extending above and beyond regulatory requirements. Your success represents a commitment to the standards of excellence that is integral to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP).

In the 19 years since we began AWOP work in partnership with state regulatory agencies and water systems, the EPA has seen the program deliver strong results. Four EPA Regions and more than 20 states are now involved. Just in the Southeast, during 2015 there were more than 10.1 million people served by water treatment plants meeting microbial goals for optimized performance. The EPA and state organizations participating in AWOP continue to develop and share tools that help water systems with other important issues – like disinfection byproduct control, distribution system management, data integrity, and water conservation. Through it all, we remind ourselves that we owe the success of AWOP to water systems like yours that are willing to pursue innovative operational approaches to enhance water quality. The “hands-on” collaboration that occurs across AWOP's membership in the course of our work leads to better trained and more capable staff among water systems, states, and the EPA.

We look forward to your continued support of AWOP in the years to come. We are proud of your success, and again, congratulations on your accomplishment.

Sincerely,

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

Becky B. Allenbach
Chief
Grants and Drinking Water Protection Branch