



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

ALEC MESSINA, DIRECTOR

217/782-3362

May 10, 2017

Richard Warner, Senior Scientist and
William Kruidenier, Associate Director
National Great Rivers Research and Education Center
One Confluence Way
East Alton, Illinois 62024

Dick and Bill:

I'd like to thank you and Dr. Jong Lee for meeting with Roy Smogor and me regarding current and future use of the Great Lakes to Gulf Virtual Observatory (GLTG) in our work with the Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs). As you know, development and implementation of the NLRs is led by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, with implementation and communication facilitation provided by the Illinois Water Resources Center – Illinois Indiana Sea Grant.

Interim goals identified in the NLRs include a nitrate-nitrogen reduction of 15 percent and total phosphorus reduction of 25 percent by the year 2025, with the ultimate goal of attaining a 45% reduction for both nutrients. In order to track attainment or nonattainment of those goals, the NLRs-Nutrient Monitoring Council (NMC) was formed. As chairman of the 13-member NMC, I can tell you that we spend a considerable amount of time at our meetings discussing the need for monitoring to track progress and to inform future implementation and tracking decisions. Dr. Lee has provided a number of presentations at NMC meetings to show us how GLTG can be an extremely useful tool to visually display data to assist us in our NLRs tracking efforts. I appreciate your offer of having GLTG developers work with my staff to ensure the virtual observatory responds to our most pressing needs.

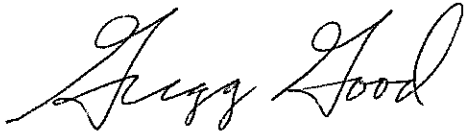
Over the years, various National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) representatives have had various meetings and given presentations to the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMBRA). Dick, I am thankful that you have recently accepted an invitation from UMRBA to present on June 8 information regarding GLTG to members of their Water Quality Task Force (WQTF) and Water Quality Executive Committee (WQEC). As with Roy and me, I gather your presentation will focus on future collaborations, how GLTG can be tailored to benefit individual states and UMRBA as a whole, etc. WQTF members hold positions similar to mine, more at the state water quality monitoring agency technical or mid-level management level. WQEC members are the state agency Water Program leaders responsible for carrying out Federal Clean Water Act programs and initiatives (e.g., monitoring, permitting, NPS management, compliance, enforcement, state nutrient strategies, Gulf Hypoxia).

4302 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61103 (815)987-7760
595 S. State, Elgin, IL 60123 (847)608-3131
2125 S. First St., Champaign, IL 61820 (217)278-5800
2009 Mall St., Collinsville, IL 62234 (618)346-5120

9511 Harrison St., Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847)294-4000
412 SW Washington St., Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309)671-3022
2309 W. Main St., Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618)993-7200
100 W. Randolph, Suite 10-300, Chicago, IL 60601

I look forward to working with NGRREC and their staff on future GLTG activities in Illinois, and trust that my colleagues in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, and Iowa will do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregg Good". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Gregg Good, Manager
Surface Water Section
Bureau of Water
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

GG/gg/n:plandocs/good/NGRREC support letter 0517.docx