

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

August 25, 1998

Joel A. Miele, Sr., P.E.
Commissioner
New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)
Executive Offices
59-17 Junction Blvd., 19th Floor
Corona, New York 11368-5107

Dear Commissioner Miele:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that in consultation with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), I have decided to approve in-series Continuous Backwash Upflow Dual Sand Filtration Technology as equivalent to Microfiltration for removing *Giardia* cysts and *Cryptosporidium* oocysts from treated wastewater discharged in New York City's drinking water watersheds.

This decision is based on my staff's review of the results of the filtration pilot study conducted by NYCDEP at the Stamford, New York wastewater treatment plant, the results of EPA's internal peer review, and the public comments received. EPA's national experts who performed the peer review concluded that the study was sound, and that the test results support the application of both technologies in the New York City watershed for minimizing the discharge of *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* via treated wastewater. My equivalency decision is limited to this wastewater application. I have enclosed a copy of EPA's and NYSDOH's response to the public comments for your information.

As agreed upon by members of your staff, long-term, periodic monitoring of the final effluent for *Giardia* cysts and *Cryptosporidium* oocysts at selected wastewater treatment plants will be performed with the results reported to this agency as well as NYSDOH, quarterly. During this monitoring program, information on long-term operation/maintenance problems should also be collected. Jeff Gratz, of my staff has already spoken to David Warne of your staff to begin establishing the details of such an effort.

Please call me at (212) 637-5000 or Kathleen Callahan, Director, Division of Environmental Planning and Protection at (212) 637-3724 if you would like to discuss this decision. As always, EPA is available to meet with you or your staff on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Fox
Regional Administrator

cc: R. Tramontano, NYSDOH