



## TOWN OF JONESBOROUGH

123 BOONE STREET  
JONESBOROUGH, TN 37659  
TELEPHONE (423) 753-1030  
FAX (423) 753-1074

April 7, 2003

8

Water Docket  
Environment Protection Agency  
Mail Code 4101T  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: Attn. Docket ID No OW-2002-0050

As Mayor of the Town of Jonesborough, Tennessee, I would like to comment on EPA's decision to re-evaluate rulemaking concerning the scope of protection provided waters under the Clean Water Act. In the mountainous areas of Northeast Tennessee, most of our waterways are non-navigable, but they are vital to the future of our region. Jonesborough operates a regional water system that serves much of Washington County Tennessee. Our source of surface supply is the Nolichucky River, which also provides water to our neighbors, Erwin and Greeneville, Tennessee, as well as other communities downstream. The Nolichucky is fed by a host of mountain streams that are constantly under threat of pollution due to the rapid development in our region. Residential and commercial development typically locates in the areas along streams and waterways because of access and ease of construction in the lower elevations. The conflict is obvious, and without proper protection, polluted waterways are not just a possibility, but a reality.

We have to address continued increases in regulation governing the quality of the water we serve our customers. Although many of the measures we have to initiate to meet changing federal regulations are very costly, we take a deep breath and move ahead because we know that these regulations are meant to protect beautiful areas like Northeast Tennessee and the wonderful people that live here. The very least the federal government can do is continue to provide the regulatory controls that will not let a difficult situation get worse. Junk cars and appliances, mining, and many other development activities constantly threaten our "isolated" streams. Regulation is a must.

*THE OLDEST TOWN IN TENNESSEE*

Local and State governments can do a lot, and we certainly can pay more attention to our specific problems than the federal government. However, we need the oversight of the federal umbrella to meet our goals. Through the Clean Water Act, we have made tremendous progress. We know the system works; it doesn't need to be changed.

Clean Water is fast becoming our most precious resource. We've proven that we can grow and develop, we can create jobs, people can earn good incomes, and we can do this without devastating our environment and polluting our streams. In our area of the country, protection of the small creeks, streams and wetlands is making a big difference. We're growing rapidly with the current safeguards; there is no need to relax regulation.

Sincerely,



Tobie Bledsoe  
Mayor

4/28 8 1995