September 21, 2016

To:

Dr. Parker J. Wigington, Jr., Editor-in-Chief

Dr. E. Ashley Steel, Associate Editor

JAWRA, Wiley

From:

Dr. Marcus W. Beck

US Environmental Protection Agency [beck.marcus@epa.gov](mailto:beck.marcus@epa.gov), +18509342480

Dr. Rebecca R. Murphy

UMCES at Chesapeake Bay Program [rmurphy@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rmurphy@chesapeakebay.net), +14102679837

Enclosed please find our revised manuscript, entitled “Numerical and qualitative contrasts of two statistical models for water quality change in tidal waters”, to be reconsidered as an original research article.

This resubmission is a major revision to address constructive comments from our reviewers. For the first reviewer, we have added an analysis that compares both models using independent validation datasets. The new results generally support our initial conclusions that both models produce similar prediction errors. We have also revised our description of the models for clarity and provided additional detail where needed. For the second reviewer, we have shortened many of the figure and table captions as requested.

We hope that this revision sufficiently addresses the concerns of the reviewers. Detailed responses to each of the comments are provided as an attachment in this resubmission. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

Respectfully,

Dr. Marcus W. Beck