



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 19 1979

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DIVISION

Honorable Fob James
Governor of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Governor:

With great pleasure I am today approving your request to conduct a State permit program pursuant to the provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under section 402 of the Clean Water Act (the Act).

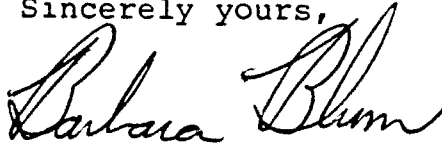
Pursuant to section 402(c) of the Act, I am suspending, as of this date, the issuance of permits by the Environmental Protection Agency under section 402(a) of the Act as to discharges in the State of Alabama, including those from agencies and instrumentalities of the Federal Government. I am also approving, by this action, Alabama's pretreatment program for industrial wastes introduced into Publicly Owned Treatment Works.

The program that you conduct pursuant to this authority must at all times be in accordance with section 402 of the Act, all guidelines promulgated pursuant to section 304(i)(2) of the Act, and the Memorandum of Agreement between John C. White, Regional Administrator of Region IV, and James W. Warr, Director of the Alabama Water Improvement Commission (AWIC) which I have also approved today (copy enclosed). Also, bear in mind that this approval is based on the NPDES manpower and funding commitment contained in the State's submittal to EPA seeking NPDES permit issuing authority.

Alabama has demonstrated a great deal of capability, patience and cooperation in developing a permit program compatible with this Agency's NPDES program. You should be proud of

this achievement. We look forward to continuing the strong relationship which has developed between EPA and AWIC, and to the prospect of working closely with you and the Commission to continue the progress you have made toward cleaner water throughout the State.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Blum". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Barbara Blum
Acting Administrator

Enclosures