



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

SEP 5 1974

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Governor Mandel:

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 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (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 subsection (a) of Section 402 of the Act as to discharges in the State of Maryland other than those from agencies and instrumentalities of the Federal Government.

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(h)(2) of the Act, and the Memorandum of Agreement signed by Daniel J. Snyder, III, Regional Administrator of Region III, and Mr. Herbert M. Sachs, Director of the Water Resources Administration of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which I have also approved today (copy enclosed).

On this occasion let me stress the necessity of issuing NPDES permits to all major dischargers in the State of Maryland by December 31, 1974, and add my support to the permit issuance schedule set up by Section IV of the Memorandum of Agreement. Meeting the December 31, 1974, deadline is important because all facilities discharging without an NPDES permit after that date will be in violation of the Act and possibly subject to severe penalty provisions. Also, prompt issuance of NPDES permits is necessary in order to put dischargers on a timely and specific cleanup schedule.

Maryland has demonstrated a great deal of capability, patience, and cooperation in the development of its permit program. You, your staff, the Maryland legislature, and the personnel of the Department of Natural Resources should feel justifiable pride and satisfaction in making Maryland one of the first States on the

Atlantic Coast to undertake this important environmental program.

We look forward to working with you and the Department of Natural Resources to continue the progress you have made toward cleaner water in Maryland's lakes, streams, coastal, and tidal waters with their precious fish and shellfish resources.

Sincerely yours,


Russell E. Train

Honorable Marvin Mandel
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Herbert M. Sachs, Director
Water Resources Administration
Maryland Department of Natural Resources