



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 1 1974

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Governor Waller:

It is my pleasure to inform you that your request for approval 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") is hereby approved. Pursuant to section 402(b) 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 Mississippi 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 between the Regional Administrator of Region IV and the Executive Director of the Mississippi Air and Water Pollution Control Commission, which I have also approved today. In addition, this approval is based upon my understanding that you will attempt to accomplish a modification of Mississippi's civil penalties and criminal fines by recommending to the next regular session of the State legislature a bill which would make the State laws substantially identical to the provisions of section 309 of the Act.

I strongly support Mississippi's commitment, as set forth in Section L of the Memorandum of Agreement, to issue NPDES permits to all dischargers in the State of Mississippi by December 31, 1974. Meeting the December 31 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, issuance of the permits is essential in order to put polluters on a specific cleanup schedule.

Mississippi is the first State in Region IV to receive approval of its permit program under this comprehensive water pollution law. Glen Wood and his talented, dedicated staff deserve much credit for making Mississippi a leader in the fight to clean our Nation's waters.

We at EPA look forward to working with you to achieve the ambitious goals you have embraced with the undertaking of this important program.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John Quast, Acting Administrator
Russell E. Train

Honorable William Waller
Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi 39203

Enclosure
Memorandum of Agreement

cc: Mr. Glen Wood, Jr.
Executive Director
Mississippi Air and Water Pollution
Control Commission

RAEMMETT:EG-338:dwk:4/17/74
RETYPE:lsy:4/18/74

bcc: AK (3)
OGC Chron
Reading
Richard Johnson, (2)
Brian Molloy (1)
Jack Raven, Regional Administrator, Region IV
Paul Traina, Enforcement Division, Region IV