

SEP - 6 1991

Honorable James G. Martin  
Governor of North Carolina  
State Capitol  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Dear Governor Martin:

On October 19, 1975 North Carolina received authority to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program within its borders.

The 1977 Amendments to the Clean Water Act provide that states may be authorized to issue general permits as part of the NPDES program. On July 11, 1991 your Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources requested that its NPDES program be modified to provide the State of North Carolina with NPDES authority to issue general permits to several classes of dischargers with similar wastewater characteristics.

I am pleased to approve your request for authority to issue general permits today, and to congratulate you and your staff for having acquired this NPDES authority. This is consistent with the national policy that NPDES regulatory authority be administered at the State level. This action will allow the State to administer all aspects of the NPDES permitting program.

Earlier comments by my staff noted that the State must repeal a provision contained in North Carolina General Statutes §143.215.1.(61) before general permit authority for filter backwash facilities of swimming pools and spas can be approved. This was repealed on May 29, 1991; however, the repeal is not effective until October 1, 1991. Therefore your authority for this class of discharger is withheld until October 1, 1991.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Patrick M. Tobin  
Deputy Regional Administrator

Greer C. Tidwell  
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. George T. Everett, Director  
Dept. of Environment, Health & Natural Resources