

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

OCT 15 1992

Honorable Mario M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing with regard to Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling's recent request for expansion of New York's wastewater permitting authorities.

On October 28, 1975, the State of New York received authority to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program within its borders. Regulations implementing the Clean Water Act provide that states may be authorized to issue general permits as part of the NPDES program. On September 17, 1992, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) requested that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approve a modification of its NPDES program and provide the State of New York with authority to issue general NPDES permits for several classes of discharges. I am pleased to approve this request for authority to issue general NPDES permits today and to congratulate you and your staff for having acquired this authority. This action is consistent with the USEPA's national policy that NPDES regulatory authority be administered at the state level.

We look forward to working with you and the NYSDEC in continuing the progress you have made towards improving the water quality in the State of New York.

Sincerely,



Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff
Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Thomas Jorling, Commissioner
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

Mr. Robert Abrams, Attorney General
of the State of New York

bcc: L. Wilcher, WH-566
D. Gomes, ORC:WGGL
P. Durack, WM:WPCB
D. Karp, EN-336 ✓
P. Sweeney, WM:WPCB
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