



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 30 1976

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Governor King:

I am today approving your request for approval to conduct a Territorial 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). Accordingly, as of this date I am suspending the issuance of permits by the Environmental Protection Agency under subsection (a) of section 402 of the Act as to all discharges in the Territory of the Virgin Islands other than those from agencies and instrumentalities of the Federal Government.

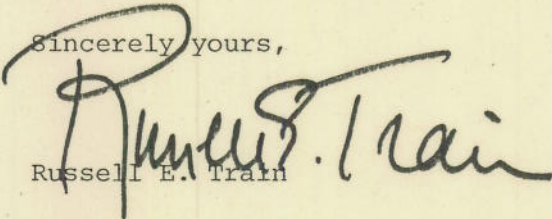
The program that you conduct pursuant to this authority must at all times be in accordance with section 402 of the Act, all guidelines promulgated pursuant to section 304(h)(2) of the Act, and the enclosed Memorandum of Agreement signed by Mr. Gerald M. Hansler, Regional Administrator of EPA's Region II, and Mr. Viridin C. Brown, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, which I have also approved today.

It is vitally important that effective enforcement of permits and the permit program be achieved. The Memorandum of Agreement, which indicates that the Regional Administrator generally intends to undertake direct enforcement of Federally- or Territorially-issued permits only when the Territory does not take appropriate enforcement action, is not intended to and will not foreclose direct Federal enforcement action in any case where EPA determines that a violation has occurred and Federal enforcement proceedings are warranted.

I recognize that the Territory of the Virgin Islands has committed itself to a strong effort aimed at eliminating water pollution. Based on the description of the program the Territory has submitted and its commitment to providing the necessary resources to implement the program, I am confident that continued progress will be maintained in the preservation and protection of the Territory's water quality.

You, your staff, the Virgin Islands Legislature, and the personnel of the Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs should feel justifiable pride and satisfaction upon assuming administration of this important environmental program. We look forward to working with you and the Department in continuing the progress you have made towards cleaner water in the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely yours,


Russell E. Train

Honorable Cyril King
Governor of the Virgin Islands
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801

Enclosure

cc: Viridin C. Brown, Commissioner
Department of Conservation
and Cultural Affairs
P.O. Box 578
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Gerald M. Hansler, P.E.
Regional Administrator
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