

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

JUL 24 1974

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Governor Carter:

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 Georgia 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 Mr. Jack E. Ravan, Regional Administrator of Region IV, and Mr. R. S. Howard, Jr., Director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, which I have also approved today.

I strongly support Georgia's commitment, as set forth in Section E of the Memorandum of Agreement, to issue NPDES permits to all significant dischargers in the State of Georgia 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, prompt issuance of the permits is essential in order to put polluters on a timely and specific cleanup schedule.

For some time now Georgia has maintained an effective water pollution control program based upon permits specifying stringent cleanup requirements. At the public hearing to consider the Georgia permit program, Mr. Howard stated that Georgia will be "the cleanest State in the United States by the end of 1974, or at least by 1977." As one who has respect for Mr. Howard's judgment and ability, I wish Georgia success in being one of the first, if not the first, State to solve the difficult, longstanding problem of water pollution.

I hope that you, your staff, and the personnel of the Environmental Protection Division will feel free to call upon us at EPA for cooperation, support and assistance. We look forward to working with you as you carry out this most important environmental program.

Sincerely yours,


Russell E. Train

Honorable Jimmy Carter
Governor of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Enclosure
Memorandum of Agreement

cc: Mr. R. S. Howard, Director
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources