

DEC 26 2007

Mr. Robert S. Mathes, Commissioner  
Department of Planning and Natural Resources  
Cyril E. King Airport – Terminal Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Dear Commissioner Mathes:

On June 30, 1976, the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) received the 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. The USVI has requested that EPA approve a modification of its NPDES program and provide the USVI with authority to issue general NPDES permits. You have also provided me with a letter from the USVI Attorney General dated November 5, 2007, which certifies that the laws of the USVI provide adequate authority for the USVI, through its Department of Planning and Natural Resources to carry out the general permit program.

I am pleased to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency is approving your request for authority to issue general NPDES permits. This action is consistent with EPA's national policy that NPDES regulatory authority be administered at the state level. I am enclosing a copy of the fully executed Amendment to the NPDES Memorandum of Agreement.

In addition, I applaud your recent efforts in revising Territorial Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) rules and regulations (July, 2007) and finalizing a general permit for stormwater runoff from construction sites (September, 2007). The implementation and enforcement of this general permit will have an immediate and significant environmental benefit, especially in those areas where development pressures are high.

I look forward to working with you in continuing the progress you have made towards improving the water quality in the United States Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

**Signed by Alan J. Steinberg**

Alan J. Steinberg  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Vincent F. Frazer, Esq.  
Attorney General, United States Virgin Islands (w/o enclosure)