

Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
January 19, 2006

Secretary

717-787-2814

The Honorable Patricia H. Vance
Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Post Office Box 203031
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3031

Dear Senator Vance:

Thank you for your continued interest in Pennsylvania's efforts in meeting our nutrient and sediment obligations to improve water quality in our streams and helping to improve the overall quality of the Chesapeake Bay. I would like to give you an update on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) efforts.

As we discussed by phone, DEP staff spoke with thirteen facilities awaiting their final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and asked them whether they would like us to put further action on their permits on hold. This action was taken in light of your resolution and the further process that we have launched to engage stakeholders in refining the details of our Chesapeake Bay compliance strategy. The permits for these facilities would all include new, binding nutrient reduction load limits. I wanted to share with you the results of these conversations.

Of the thirteen facilities in question, six requested that we move forward and issue the final permits. Seven opted to take more time.

These results are important for a number of reasons. Among other things, there is a clear indication that many facilities have been planning for the required nutrient limits, they expect that they will be able to meet them, and perhaps most important, they are eager to move forward since the permits will allow important upgrades, expansions and capital improvements at their wastewater treatment operations and make it easier to apply for financial assistance. As we proceed with our outreach and engagement we will need to be careful not to present unintended obstacles to communities who have invested substantial sums of money and are ready to act.

Thank you again for your attention to and interest in this important matter. I look forward to refining our Chesapeake compliance plan in dialogue with you and your colleagues in the Legislature.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr. John Hines of Deputy Secretary Cathy Curran Myers' staff by e-mail at johines@state.pa.us or by phone at 717-783-4693.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Kathleen A. McGinty
Secretary

Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
January 19, 2006

Secretary

717-787-2814

The Honorable Jerry L. Nailor
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 18 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Nailor:

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