



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 24 2015

Bob Martineau, Commissioner
Department of Environment & Conservation
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
Tennessee Tower, 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Tom Burack, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Bob + Tom

Dear Commissioners Martineau and Burack:

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalizes the NPDES E-Reporting Rule, I want to extend my appreciation for the exemplary EPA-state collaboration that brought us to this moment and personally the two of you for your leadership as the immediate past president of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) and the co-chair of the E-Enterprise Leadership Council, respectively. This rule modernizes the entire Clean Water Act permitting program and brings it fully into the 21st century by converting the paper system to an electronic system. Given the leadership of so many states in this area, the final rule reflects numerous improvements suggested by the states – and is all the stronger because of those suggestions.

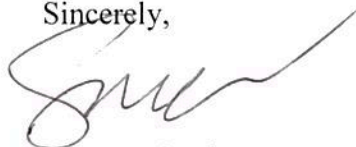
While the NPDES e-reporting rule is a watershed moment for the implementation of the Clean Water Act program, I also believe it is another positive example of the EPA-state partnership as co-regulators. Over the past few years, state agencies across the country have devoted significant resources – including major time commitments of state IT and program staff – to work through the myriad of issues that inherently come with converting a program with the size of the NPDES universe into an electronic reporting format. The result of our joint effort is clear: a much better product for the regulated community and for the state and federal staff who manage the programs, as well as more transparency to the communities near these facilities.

I am mindful that with the finalization of this rule, there will be two phases for reporting data: the fall of 2016 and again in 2020. It is essential that the EPA and states maintain our close partnership to work through all of the implementation issues associated with NPDES E-Reporting and you have my commitment that the EPA will do our part.

On the heels of the ECOS annual meeting in Newport, Rhode Island, with the theme of *Innovation*, I am struck by how innovative EPA and the states are and what we are able to achieve in partnership together. Recommitting ourselves, as we did, to the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) is just one example; and without question, our joint governance effort through E-Enterprise represents the epitome of our partnership – and the NPDES E-Reporting Rule embodies the principles of E-Enterprise.

Thank you, again, for the state partnership on the NPDES E-Reporting Rule. I look forward to many future endeavors where the EPA and our state partners can continue to innovate and identify better ways of doing the work we do, together, in service to all of the people of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina McCarthy', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Gina McCarthy

cc: Ms. Alexandra Dapolito Dunn
Executive Director & General Counsel, Environmental Council of the States