

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
AND
THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III

I. GENERAL

This Memorandum of Agreement (hereinafter "MOA") establishes responsibilities and procedures pursuant to 40 CFR §271.8 for the Commonwealth of Virginia (hereinafter "State" or "Commonwealth") Hazardous Waste Program authorized under Section 3006 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (hereinafter "RCRA" or the "Act") of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), as amended (Public Laws 94-580, 96-482, 98-616), (hereinafter "State Program" or "Program"), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region III (hereinafter "EPA").

This MOA further sets forth the manner in which the State and EPA will coordinate in the State's administration and enforcement of the State's program and, pending additional authorization, EPA's administration of the non-authorized provisions of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 ("HSWA"), and EPA's regulations thereunder. For purposes of this MOA, references to "RCRA" include HSWA.

This MOA is entered into on behalf of the State by the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (hereinafter "Director") to the fullest extent of their authority to act as a representative of the Commonwealth in their capacity as Director¹, and by the Regional Administrator, EPA Region III (hereinafter "Regional Administrator").

Nothing in this MOA will be construed to restrict in any way EPA's authority to fulfill its oversight and enforcement responsibilities and authorities under Subtitle C of RCRA. Nothing in this MOA will be construed to contravene any provision of 40 CFR Part 271 or any other Federal law or regulation.

Further, nothing in this MOA shall be construed to restrict the Commonwealth in the administration of the State Program required in the Waste Management Act, §§10.1-1400, *et seq.* of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, or the Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, Title 9, Environment, Virginia Administrative Code (hereinafter "9 VAC 20-60-10 et seq.") or other state law.

¹ Unless the context indicates otherwise, the terms "Director" and "State" are used interchangeably.

Nothing in this MOA will be deemed to confer any rights or privileges on any person or entity not a party to this agreement.

The State and EPA (hereinafter "Parties" or, individually, "Party") will review the MOA jointly at least once a year.

This MOA supersedes the MOA that became effective on February 26, 2019. This MOA may be modified upon the initiative of either Party to ensure consistency with State Program modifications or for any other purpose mutually agreed upon. Any revisions or modifications to this MOA will be in writing and must be signed by the Director and the Regional Administrator. This MOA will remain in effect until such time as EPA withdraws State Program authorization or the State voluntarily transfers authority to EPA according to the criteria and procedures established in 40 CFR §§ 271.22 and 271.23, or until the MOA is superseded by a new MOA executed by the Parties.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Each of the Parties to this MOA is responsible for ensuring that its obligations under Subtitle C of RCRA are met. Upon granting of final authorization by EPA, the State assumes primary responsibility for implementing the authorized provisions of the State Program within its boundaries. The State will continue to conduct its Program consistent with existing EPA program policies and guidance² and intends to follow future EPA program policies and guidance, consistent with State law and regulations. EPA retains its responsibility to ensure full and faithful execution of the requirements of RCRA, including direct implementation of HSWA in the event the State is not authorized to act thereunder. The Director and the Regional Administrator agree to maintain a high level of cooperation between their respective staffs in a partnership to assure successful and effective administration of the State Program. While EPA retains responsibility for the direct implementation of those provisions of HSWA for which the State is not authorized, EPA and the State intend to coordinate the implementation of these provisions to the greatest degree possible.

Section 3006(g) of RCRA provides that hazardous waste requirements and prohibitions promulgated pursuant to HSWA are applicable in authorized states at the same time that they are applicable in unauthorized states with the exception of section 3006(f), "Availability of Information," which cannot be implemented by EPA in authorized states. The State has not obtained authorization for section 3006(f). If such HSWA requirements are less stringent than the State's Program, the State's rules would govern.

² These policies and guidance include, at a minimum, the OSWER Consolidated Guidance; the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance MOA guidance; RCRA Civil Penalty Policy (updated June 23, 2003); National Criteria for a Quality Hazardous Waste Program; EPA's Hazardous Waste Civil Enforcement Response Policy (December 2003), and any revision thereto; and the EPA Policy on Performance Based Assistance (May 31, 1985); the May 1, 1996 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Corrective Action Program and other Corrective Action guidance documents; Setting Customer Service Standards (E.O. 12862, September 11, 1993); Improving Customer Service (Fred Hanson, April 8, 1998); Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations (E.O. 12892, February 11, 1994) and any revision thereto; EPA OSWER Environmental Justice Action Agenda (EPA 540/R-95/023, 1995); Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (E.O. 14008, January 27, 2021),

EPA will execute its required oversight functions of the authorized State Program to ensure full execution of the requirements of RCRA, to promote national consistency in the implementation of the Hazardous Waste Program, to allow EPA to report to the President and Congress on the achievements of the Hazardous Waste Program, and to encourage States and EPA to agree on the level of desirable technical support and joint efforts to prevent and to mitigate environmental problems associated with the improper management of hazardous wastes.

EPA will conduct oversight functions through written reporting requirements, permit overview, compliance and enforcement overview, and mid-year and annual reviews of the State's Program.

III. STATE PROGRAM REVIEW

A. General

The Regional Administrator will assess the State's administration and enforcement of the hazardous waste program on a continuing basis for equivalence and consistency with RCRA, with this MOA, and with all applicable Federal requirements and policies for the adequacy of enforcement. EPA will assess the State's administration and enforcement by reviewing information the State submits in accordance with this MOA, the State's RCRA §3011 Grant Work Plan (hereinafter "Grant Work Plan"), and through periodic reviews of the State's Program activities. EPA may also employ other mechanisms to aid in its assessment of the State's Program.

To ensure effective Program review, the State agrees to allow EPA access to all records used in the administration of the Program requested by the Regional Administrator, or their designee, which are deemed necessary by EPA to review and evaluate the State Program and enforcement. The State does not waive any privileges it may assert in litigation under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Review of the State's files may be scheduled periodically; however, the State agrees to allow EPA access to specific files more frequently as circumstances warrant, i.e., for enforcement actions. Program review meetings between the Director and the Regional Administrator, or their designees, will be scheduled at reasonable intervals not less than annually to review specific operating procedures and schedules, to resolve problems and to discuss mutual program concerns. These meetings will be scheduled at least fifteen (15) days in advance unless EPA and the State agree to a different length of time. A tentative agenda for the meeting will be prepared in advance by EPA.

The Regional Administrator may also consider, as part of their regular assessment, written comments about the State's Program administration and enforcement that are received from regulated persons, the public, and Federal, State and local agencies.

B. Identification of Priority Activities

The State and EPA agree to develop, as a part of the State's Grant Work Plan, criteria for priority activities, including activities regarding handlers of hazardous waste. These criteria will be based on EPA program guidance, and priorities of the State and will be used to identify activities that should receive the highest priority during the grant period. They will be reviewed annually and revised as appropriate.

Activities that could be considered high priority include, but are not limited to, facilities to be inspected or permitted, facilities requiring corrective action, and enforcement against owners or operators of facilities with known or suspected contamination that pose a risk to human health or the environment.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. General

This Section covers information sharing on miscellaneous elements of the RCRA program, including notification, Resource Conservation and Recovery Information ("RCRAInfo") data, etc. Specific information-sharing requirements for the other major program elements are covered in Sections V (Permit Issuance), VI (Permit Administration), VII (Corrective Action Program), and IX (Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement).

As the respective information needs of the State and EPA evolve, changes to this section of the MOA may be appropriate. During the annual review of this MOA, the Director and the Regional Administrator will carefully examine the following information-sharing provisions and revise as appropriate.

EPA and State responsibilities regarding the maintenance and operation of the RCRAInfo System are specified in the RCRAInfo Technical Document and in the Grant Work plan negotiated between EPA and the State.

The State and EPA agree to develop and implement management procedures that will facilitate the flow of RCRA program data into RCRAInfo, and also assure timely and accurate data entry.

The State and EPA agree to adhere to any operating procedures developed for RCRAInfo data management. If the State and EPA mutually determine that the procedures prove inadequate, then the State and EPA agree to revise the procedures.

The State and EPA agree to participate in the RCRAInfo User conferences, conference calls, and training, whenever possible, to ensure that both State and EPA staff are knowledgeable about data entry procedures, and informed about RCRA policies that might impact how data is entered into RCRAInfo. The State and EPA agree to develop and implement data review, data quality assurance, and data quality control procedures. These procedures may range from periodic error or discrepancy reports and corrections to major module cleanups.

Examples of responsibilities addressed in the RCRAInfo Technical Document include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Processing hazardous waste notification forms;
2. Issuing EPA identification numbers;
3. Submittal and use of compliance and enforcement information;
4. Submittal and use of corrective action information;
5. Processing hazardous waste permitting information; and
6. Submittal of information to correct information which is inaccurate.

B. EPA

Consistent with applicable law and regulations, EPA will:

1. Keep the State informed in a timely manner of the content and meaning of Federal statutes, regulations, guidelines, standards, policy decisions, directives, and other factors that affect the State's Program. EPA will also provide timely technical guidance to the State. EPA will share with the State any national reports EPA develops from the data submitted through State reporting requirements;
2. Make available to the States, as requested, other relevant information which the State needs to implement its approved program, subject to the conditions of 40 CFR part 2, such as:
 - a. Part A and Part B Permit Applications, whether received prior to the effective date of this MOA, or subsequent to the effective date of this MOA, and whether first received by the State or EPA;
 - b. Copies of final permits and permit modifications;
 - c. Notices of permit denials; and
 - d. Other information necessary to support the foregoing information; and
3. Bring to the State's attention any comments it receives regarding the State's administration of the Program.

As resources and circumstances allow, EPA will make available necessary training relating to RCRA Subtitle C to the State on request.

4. As resources allow, EPA agrees to provide technical assistance to the State in the review of permit applications, draft permits, permit modifications, closure/post-closure plans, etc., on request.

C. State

The State agrees to inform the Regional Administrator in advance of any proposed program changes that would affect the State's implementation of the Program. Program changes of concern include modifications of the State's legal authorities (*i.e.*, statutes, regulations, and judicial or legislative actions affecting those authorities), modifications of Memoranda of Agreement or Understanding with other agencies, and modifications of resource levels that would have a negative impact on the State's ability to carry out the terms of this MOA (*i.e.*, available or budgeted personnel and funds). The State recognizes that program revisions must be made in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR §271.21, and that, until approved by EPA, revisions are not authorized as RCRA Subtitle C requirements.

EPA and the State will agree on the type and frequency of reports which the State will prepare for EPA to maintain oversight of the implementation of the State Program. A specific list of reports and their frequency will be included in the Grant Work Plan and will constitute a grant commitment for the State. Reporting will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Government Performance and Results Act ("GPRA") goals and accomplishments;
2. Information required pursuant to 40 CFR §270.5;
3. Biennial report summarizing the quantities and types of hazardous waste generated, transported, treated, stored, and disposed of in the State by October 1 of each even-numbered year;
4. On request, copies of inspection reports, record reviews, and sampling results for all commercial facilities, treatment, storage, and disposal facilities ("TSDFs"), large quantity generators ("LQGs"), Federal facilities and non-notifiers. For small quantity generators ("SQGs"), the above reports need only be submitted where there are detected violations; and
5. On request, copies of all enforcement actions, orders and judgments regarding commercial facilities, non-notifiers, TSDFs, Federal facilities, generators and SQGs.

Pursuant to 40 CFR §271.8, EPA reserves the right to request any information it deems necessary relating to the State's Program in a manner to be specified in the Grant Work Plan.

The State agrees to provide permit and closure information to EPA as specified in the Grant Work Plan. A listing of the information which the State will submit to EPA and a submittal schedule will be included in the Grant Work Plan and will constitute a grant commitment for the State. Examples of the required information include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Copies of permit applications submitted to the State and subsequent revisions or additions to these applications on or after the effective date of this MOA, for hazardous waste management facilities in the State, unless EPA has been sent a copy by the facility;
2. Copies of draft permits, proposed permit modifications, draft permit denials, and accompanying explanatory material for all hazardous waste management facilities in the State. EPA also may request copies of completeness and technical reviews for selected permits being worked on during the fiscal year;

3. Copies of all final permits issued, denied, modified, reissued or terminated;
4. The following closure/post-closure data:
 - a. Copies of the public notices announcing receipt of closure/post-closure plans and public hearings, if applicable;
 - b. Copies of the approved closure and post-closure plans for all facilities;
 - c. Copies of the closure certifications for facilities signed by an independent registered professional engineer (or an independent qualified soil scientist in cases of land treatment facilities) and the owner or operator;
 - d. Copies of the State's reports of inspections conducted during closure and after receipt of closure certification; and
 - e. Copies of any notice placed in the property deed, or other instrument that is normally examined during a title search, annotating the existence of any closed disposal facility/unit or cell.

The State may request technical assistance in the review of permit applications, draft permits, permit modifications, closure/post-closure plans, variances, waivers, etc. EPA will honor these requests as resources allow. The priorities for permitting will be reviewed annually.

Upon EPA's request, the State agrees to provide EPA with copies of reports or data resulting from any compliance inspection and subsequent enforcement actions.

The State agrees to send EPA a copy of each State decision granting any waiver or variance, within the scope of the Program, at the time such request is granted.

The State agrees to provide any pertinent information requested by the Regional Administrator or their designee within a mutually agreed upon time frame for EPA to carry out its oversight responsibilities. Unless otherwise specified, the above information will be sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
Virginia Program Manager, 3LD30
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

As an alternative, the above information may also be sent by electronic email to the Virginia Program Manager. Any questions regarding how to submit the above information can be directed to the RCRA Programs Branch at 215-814-5000.

In accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR §§271.14 and 124.10(c) the State agrees to develop and maintain a public mailing list and have it readily available for EPA before public notice of an action by the State regarding a facility. An acceptable list may be specific to certain facilities, areas, or concerns; or the list may be a general State-wide list used in all cases. This list should be kept current and accurate.

D. Obtaining and Sharing Information for National Data

EPA is responsible for maintaining reliable national data on hazardous waste management. This data is used to report to the President and Congress on the achievements of the hazardous waste program and to support EPA's regulatory development efforts. Whenever EPA determines that it needs to obtain such data, EPA will first seek to gain it from the State, which agrees to supply this information to the Regional Administrator if readily available and as resources allow. If the State is unable to provide the information or if it is necessary to supplement the State information, EPA may conduct a special survey or perform information collection site visits after notifying the State. EPA will share with the State any national reports developed by EPA as a result of such information collection.

E. Emergency Situations

Upon receipt of any information that the handling, storage, treatment, transportation, or disposal of hazardous waste is endangering human health or the environment, the Party in receipt of this information will immediately notify the other Party to this MOA by telephone of the situation.

1. For the State, during office hours, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Central Office, 804-698-4000 or 1800-592-5482, after hours emergencies contact the DEQ regional office or the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), 1-800-468-8892. DEQ regional office contact information is available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/>
2. For the EPA, the twenty-four (24) hour response number is (215) 814-9016 or (215) 814-3255.
3. The number for the National Response Center for Oil and Hazardous Materials Spills is 1-800-424-8802.

F. Confidentiality

The State agrees to give EPA access to all records used in the administration of the Program requested by the Regional Administrator which are deemed necessary by EPA to review and evaluate the State Program and enforcement. The Commonwealth does not waive any privileges it may assert in litigation under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

EPA agrees to furnish to the State information in its files that is not submitted under a claim of business confidentiality and which the State needs to implement its Program. Subject to the conditions in 40 CFR Part 2, EPA will furnish the State information submitted to EPA under a claim of business confidentiality which the State needs to implement its program. All information EPA agrees to transfer to the State will be transferred in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR Part 2.

V. PERMIT ISSUANCE

A. EPA Permitting

Since authorization of the State Program, EPA has suspended issuance of Federal permits for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for which the State is receiving authorization. If EPA promulgates standards for additional regulations mandated by HSWA that are not covered by the State's Program, EPA will issue and enforce RCRA permits in the State for these new regulations until the State receives final authorization for equivalent State standards.

As the State receives authorization for additional provisions of HSWA, EPA will suspend issuance of Federal permits in the State for those provisions. If EPA promulgates new standards requiring a permit modification, EPA may, pursuant to 40 CFR §270.42(b)(6)(vii), extend the time period for final approval or denial of a modification request until such time that the State receives authorization for the new standards.

EPA will transfer any pending permit applications, completed permits or pertinent file information to the State within thirty (30) days of the approval of the State Program or other mutually agreed upon schedule in conformance with the conditions of this MOA.

B. State Permitting

The State is responsible for expeditiously drafting, circulating for public review and comment, issuing, modifying, reissuing and terminating RCRA permits for those hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities subject to the authorized provisions of the State's program. The State will do so in a manner consistent with RCRA, as amended by HSWA, this MOA, all applicable Federal requirements, the State's Program Description, the Grant Work Plan, and other State requirements. The State commits to meeting the applicable GPRA RCRA permitting goal, as negotiated in the Grant Work Plan.

The State's permitting process will conform to 9 VAC 20-60-124 and 9 VAC 20-60-270, which are analogous to 40 CFR Parts 124 and 270.

The State agrees to issue, modify or reissue all permits contained in the authorized portions of the State's program in accordance with 9 VAC 20-60-270, which is analogous to 40 CFR Part 270, and to include as permit conditions all applicable provisions of 9 VAC 20-60-264, which is analogous to 40 CFR Part 264. This MOA also applies to permits issued after final authorization, but for which the processing may have begun before final authorization.

In permits issued pursuant to the State's Program, the State will ensure that compliance tasks are described in clear, unambiguous and plain language to the extent practicable. The compliance tasks should be clear, measurable and definable thereby lending themselves to greater enforceability. For example: "Conduct periodic inspections" should be replaced with "Inspect on a daily/weekly/biweekly/monthly basis. A log book documenting inspections will be maintained at the facility for a period of 3 years."

The State agrees that any compliance schedule contained in permits it issues will require compliance with applicable standards as soon as possible.

The State agrees to consider all comments that EPA makes on permit applications and draft permits

before issuing the permit or making the modification. The State will satisfy or refute in writing any EPA written comments on a particular permit application, proposed permit modification, or draft permit before issuing the permit or making the modification. In addition, the State agrees not to issue a permit or approve a modification in dispute until the Regional Administrator and the Director have exercised the dispute process in Section V. C. below.

The State agrees that no permit will be issued unless the public notice requirements are met, in accordance with 9 VAC 20-60-124.

The State agrees to submit to EPA no less than forty-five (45) days prior to public notice those draft permits or proposed permit modifications identified for oversight in the Grant Work Plan.

The State agrees to submit copies of all final permits to EPA within ten (10) days of issuance.

C. EPA Review of State Permits

In accordance with 40 CFR §271.19, EPA may comment on any draft permit or proposed permit modification, whether or not EPA commented on the permit application. EPA may review file information at State offices or request a copy of any permit application, draft permit or proposed permit modification, statement of basis or fact sheet, and any supporting documentation that was considered in the development of any draft permit. The State will provide this information to EPA within seven (7) days of EPA's request.

While EPA may comment on any permit application, draft permit, or proposed permit modification, EPA will focus primarily on those facilities identified by the State or EPA in the Grant Work Plan or types of facilities identified as a priority in EPA National Guidance.

EPA will notify the State of its intent to comment on a State draft permit or proposed permit modification within thirty (30) days of receipt. EPA will comment within forty-five (45) days of receipt or will request an extension to submit those comments as warranted. Where EPA indicates in a comment that issuance, modification, reissuance, termination or denial of the permit would be inconsistent with the approved State Program, EPA will include in the comment:

1. A statement of the reasons for the comment (including the section of the State law or regulations that support the comment); and
2. The actions that should be taken by the State to address the comments (including the conditions which the permit would include if it were issued by EPA).

Generally, EPA and the State will attempt to resolve all EPA comments on an informal basis before a final action is taken by the State. If this is not successful, EPA will submit written comments to the State in accordance with 40 CFR §271.19, and send a copy of those comments to the permit applicant. The State agrees not to proceed with a final action until it receives EPA's written comments and resolves EPA's comments as described below:

1. The State and EPA will attempt to reach agreement on permit conditions in dispute before the State issues a draft permit or approves proposed permit modifications to an existing permit.
2. Whenever there is a disagreement between their staffs on the terms of any RCRA permit to be

issued by the State, the Director and the Regional Administrator, or their designees, agree to confer in a timely manner to resolve such disagreement. Unless otherwise agreed to, the Director and the Regional Administrator, or their designees, will work toward resolving all issues within thirty (30) days of their first involvement in the issues.

3. EPA will withdraw its comments in writing if satisfied that the State has met or refuted its concerns in writing and will provide the permit applicant with a copy of such withdrawal.
4. If the Director and the Regional Administrator are unable to resolve any issue for which EPA cannot withdraw its comment, the State may proceed to permit issuance. However, in accordance with 40 CFR §271.19, EPA may take action under §3008 of RCRA against a holder of a State-issued permit on the ground that the permittee is not complying with a condition that the Regional Administrator, in commenting on that permit application, draft permit, or proposed permit modification, stated was necessary to implement approved State Program requirements, whether or not that condition was included in the final permit.

Under Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, EPA may terminate a State-issued permit in accordance with the procedures of 40 CFR Part 124, or bring an enforcement action in the case of a violation of a State Program requirement. In exercising these authorities, EPA will observe the conditions established in 40 CFR §271.19(e), and any other applicable authorities.

D. Coordinated Permitting Process

The State and EPA agree to coordinate the issuance of permits, including joint permits, in the State for facilities subject to those provisions of HSWA for which the State does not have authorization. In accordance with Section 3006(c)(3) of RCRA, the State may enter into an agreement with the Administrator³ under which the State may assist in the administration of the requirements and prohibitions which take effect pursuant to HSWA. Details of coordinated permitting activities will be set forth in the Grant Work Plan and will be reviewed and revised as often as necessary, but no less often than annually to assure their continued appropriateness. Upon authorization of the State for a permit-related provision of HSWA, the details of any coordinated permitting activities set out in the Grant Work Plan will be amended to reflect the authorization.

VI. PERMIT ADMINISTRATION

A. EPA

EPA will administer, pursuant to 40 CFR Parts 124 and 270, the RCRA permits or portions of permits it has issued for facilities in the State until they expire or are terminated. EPA will be responsible for enforcing the terms and conditions of the Federal portions of the permits while they remain in force. Prior to authorization of additional authorities, EPA and the State may establish interim agreements that will allow State work sharing activities. When the State either incorporates the terms and conditions of the Federal permits in State RCRA permits, or issues State RCRA permits to those facilities, EPA will terminate those permits pursuant to 40 CFR Parts 124 and 270.

³ The term "Administrator" refers to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency

B. State

The State agrees to review all hazardous waste permits that were issued under State law before the appropriate effective date of authorization in accordance with 40 CFR §271.13(d) and to modify, or revoke and reissue, those permits as necessary to require compliance with the authorized State Program. The State will notify EPA of any permits not equivalent to Federal permit requirements, including any permits that have been issued but are pending administrative or judicial appeal. Except for these non-equivalent permits, once EPA has determined that the State has fulfilled the requirements of 40 CFR §271.13(d), EPA will terminate the applicable Federal permit, or Federal portion of the permit, pursuant to the procedures in 40 CFR §124.5(d), notify the State that the permit is terminated, and no longer administer those permits or portions of permits for which the State is authorized.

The State agrees to resolve all State permit appeals in a manner consistent with its State Program, and the Virginia Administrative Process Act §§2.2-4000 through -4032 of the Virginia Code.

VII. CORRECTIVE ACTION PROGRAM

A. General

EPA's authorization of the State's corrective action program, and provisions of this MOA, relate to corrective action responsibilities under RCRA §§3004(u) and (v). This MOA does not alter the corrective action authorities granted to the State on July 31, 2000 ("Authorized Corrective Action Program"). This MOA promotes the continuing coordinated transition of the oversight of corrective action activities to the State and clarifies the State's Voluntary Remediation Program (hereinafter "VRP") within its Authorized Corrective Action Program.

Oversight of the corrective action facilities in the State will be conducted in a manner consistent with the annual Grant Work Plan agreed to by EPA and the State. The Grant Work Plan details the implementation of the Authorized Corrective Action Program and technical oversight activities to be performed at corrective action facilities in the State. The Grant Work Plan also includes technical work-sharing agreements between the State and EPA and the coordinated transition of EPA-lead facilities to the State as the primary agency for implementation and oversight of corrective action activities, as appropriate. The State, in administering its Authorized Corrective Action Program, may use other State authorities to implement its Authorized Corrective Action Program to the extent that such authorities are consistent with and no less stringent than the requirements of the Authorized Corrective Action Program and that the completed remedies are consistent with the Authorized Corrective Action Program. These authorities include the State's VRP, State issued Remedy Consent Orders ("RCO") and other State Enforcement authorities such as the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act ("UECA"), Va. Code §§ 10.1 -1238 through 1250 or the Virginia Waste Management Act, Va. Code §§ 10.1-1400 through 1458.

Further, EPA understands that the State intends to utilize the process of its VRP at RCRA corrective action sites. EPA has reviewed the VRP and determined that its process is consistent and complementary with the RCRA Corrective Action program as per the authorization. Therefore, EPA agrees to allow the use of the VRP process to the extent that the requirements of the VRP are consistent with and no less stringent than the Federal corrective action requirements and that the completed remedies are consistent with EPA goals.

Both Parties agree to continue to communicate and coordinate corrective action activities in the State.

Where EPA can offer management, programmatic or technical assistance to assist in meeting site-specific objectives or mutual program goals, such support will be provided to the extent resources and competing priorities allow. To the extent possible, specific plans and expectations to coordinate respective corrective action activities will be negotiated in RCRA Grant Work Plans.

B. EPA

EPA involvement in the State's corrective action decisions will be performed in accordance with the Grant Work Plan, as resources allow.

EPA will assist the State as resources allow with all aspects of the RCRA cleanup program and support the State's efforts to conduct faster, focused and more flexible RCRA cleanups. Site-specific projected milestones towards remedy completion will be captured in the State's Grant Work Plan.

EPA will continue to work with the State to determine when and how best to transfer corrective action responsibilities to the State to minimize disruption of ongoing corrective action work and to achieve the best possible program outcomes. When making these determinations, EPA and the State will consider the following factors:

1. EPA's continued authority to administer EPA-issued corrective action permits after authorization;
2. EPA's investment in and knowledge of ongoing corrective action activities at RCRA facilities in the State;
3. The need to attain national corrective action program goals established under the RCRA Corrective Action Program Vision/Mission/Goals for 2030.
4. Available resources;
5. Skill and experience in the State's base program and corrective action program; and
6. The existence of EPA corrective action enforcement authorities beyond those related to permits (e.g., RCRA §3008(h)).

Upon the State's request, EPA will undertake best efforts to review and comment on the State's corrective action decision documents (*e.g.*, statements of basis for proposed remedy, covenants), within fourteen (14) days of EPA receipt of any such document, as resources allow, unless an alternate timeframe is agreed upon by both parties.

C. State

The State agrees to work cooperatively with EPA to make progress on facilities in Virginia's Corrective Action Universe, the details of which will be established in the Grant Work Plan. EPA's long-term goal for corrective action is to complete construction of final remedies at all facilities in the Corrective Action Universe. The State will submit to EPA copies of corrective action decision documents (*e.g.*, statements of basis for proposed remedy), including relevant permits, RCOs, VRP Certifications of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation, and/or covenants through which corrective action decisions may be implemented. The State will consider and respond to EPA's comments on

final corrective action decisions as needed The Grant Work Plan may specify additional reporting requirements.

The State will conduct the RCRA Corrective Action Program in a manner consistent with applicable EPA guidance and in a manner that promotes rapid achievement of cleanups, while protecting human health and the environment. Specifically, the State will, to the extent practicable:

1. Adopt flexible, practical, results-based approaches that focus on short-term control of human exposure and migration of contaminated groundwater, with the long-term goal being final cleanup;
2. Provide readily available public access to information and meaningful opportunities for public involvement in the cleanup process; and
3. Foster innovation, creativity, communication and technical expertise, focusing on accelerating cleanups and meeting program goals.

VIII. VARIANCES, WAIVERS, AND DELISTING

In the event circumstances arise which warrant such action, the State may exercise the variance authorities established in 10.1-1400 through 1458 of the Code of Virginia and 9 VAC 20-60-1370 through 9 VAC 20-60-1435. The State agrees to provide EPA with a copy of each State decision (regarding waivers, variances and delisting petitions, etc.) as provided in the State Program at the time such requests are granted. The State agrees that it will not exercise its variance authority, including emergency administrative orders, unless the result will be at least as stringent as, and consistent with the Federal program, and consistent with the other State programs. The State agrees that no variance will be granted unless the applicable public notice requirements are met, including those of 9 VAC 20-60-124 B.9, and publication in the Virginia Register.

EPA will continue to process delisting petitions; however, EPA agrees to include the State in all pre-petition discussions with petitioners, and EPA will notify the State within seven (7) days of receiving an official petition to delist a waste from a specific facility in the State, pursuant to 40 CFR 260.22. The Director, or their designee, will inform EPA in writing of the State's intent to participate in EPA's review and evaluation of the delisting petition. Delisting petitioners in the State will submit delisting petitions to the Regional Administrator and to the Director. In the event that these petitions are submitted to the State in lieu of EPA, the State will retain a copy and immediately forward the petition to EPA. When a petition is submitted to EPA, EPA will notify the petitioner of the need to submit a copy of the petition to the State. Should EPA require the assistance of the State in the review of the petition, this work sharing activity will be negotiated at the time the annual Grant Work Plan is being negotiated, or subsequently as an additional element to be added to or substituted into the work plan.

EPA will notify the State prior to publishing a proposed delisting determination in the Federal Register, and again notify the State when the final determination is made. A copy of the Federal Register Notice announcing EPA's tentative determination will be provided to the State. EPA will notify the State if any public comments are received on EPA's tentative determination and provide copies if requested. As necessary, and if requested, EPA agrees to coordinate with the State in the development of any response to comments. A copy of EPA's final determination on the petition, as published in the Federal Register, will be provided to the State. If the State concurs with an affirmative EPA decision on a delisting petition, the Director agrees to follow appropriate State procedures to officially incorporate EPA's rulemaking decision into the State's program.

When EPA approves a delisting petition after the appropriate public comment period, the State will notify the facility that it must petition the State for a variance from the definition of hazardous waste. The State will review and reach a case decision on the variance requests in accordance with the Virginia Administrative Process Act so that the State can recognize EPA's approved exclusion until such time as the State is able to propose incorporation of the exclusion into its regulations during the next State rulemaking opportunity. The State will inform the Regional Administrator when the final action has been completed in accordance with the Virginia Administrative Process Act. Alternatively, the delisting may be incorporated into the State's regulations during the next rulemaking by the Waste Management Board without following the variance procedures. The variance would allow application of the delisting during the interim period before the regulations are amended (9VAC 20-60-1380-B.)

IX. COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

Both EPA and the State are committed to maintaining a level playing field and establishing a credible deterrence to noncompliance throughout the regulated community. As a result, EPA and the State will work together to develop and implement a plan to coordinate compliance monitoring and enforcement activities. These activities may include but are not limited to identifying Federal and State priorities, developing and implementing inspection targeting methods, developing targeted inspection lists, exchanging information regarding ongoing Federal and State enforcement actions against significant noncompliers (SNCs) and Secondary Violators as defined in EPA's Hazardous Waste Civil Enforcement Response Policy dated December 2003, or any revisions thereto, and VADEQ's Enforcement Manual.

Enforcement and compliance monitoring activities/priorities will be outlined in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance's National Program Guidance. EPA and the State will negotiate enforcement and compliance monitoring activities/priorities and describe them in the State's Grant Work Plan.

A. EPA

1. Compliance Monitoring

Nothing in the MOA will restrict EPA's right to inspect any establishment or other place where hazardous wastes are or have been generated, stored, treated, transported from or disposed of, or to bring an enforcement action against any person believed to be in violation of the State or Federal hazardous waste program or to exercise its authority under §§3008, 3013, and/or 7003 of RCRA. Before conducting any such inspection of a regulated facility, EPA will attempt to give the State at least seven (7) days notice of EPA's intent to inspect in accordance with 40 CFR §271.8(b)(3)(i). Based on exigent circumstances, EPA may shorten this period. The State may participate in all inspections EPA conducts. EPA will coordinate oversight and training inspections with the State. EPA will share inspection updates and/or reports with the State on a regular basis and for facilities subject to State specific requirements, the State will be the lead for those requirements.

In an effort to improve enforcement coordination and clarify roles and responsibilities between EPA and the State, the lead agency of an inspection will routinely be the lead in any enforcement action to address RCRA violations discovered during the inspection. However, it is recognized that it may be more appropriate in some cases to defer enforcement action to the other agency. Discussion and mutual agreement will be sought in such cases.

2. Enforcement

EPA may take enforcement action against any person determined to be in violation of RCRA in accordance with §3008, 3013, and/or 7003 of RCRA. EPA may also take enforcement action upon determining that the State has not taken timely or appropriate enforcement in a manner consistent with EPA's Hazardous Waste Civil Enforcement Response Policy dated December 2003, or any revision thereto. EPA reserves its right to take independent enforcement actions in the State. In instances where EPA intends to proceed with enforcement in the State, EPA will notify the State in advance, and work concurrently when appropriate. When the State refers an enforcement case to EPA, the Agency will review the information provided and determine the appropriate Federal action, if any. Before issuing a complaint, compliance order or referral to the Department of Justice, EPA will give notice to the State.

EPA may exercise its corrective action authorities in accordance with RCRA §§3008(h), 3013, and 7003. Before exercising these authorities at facilities where the State has finalized corrective action under state authorities, EPA will give notice to the State. EPA and the State will negotiate the lead agency for oversight. In the Grant Work Plan, facilities will be prioritized and oversight activities established.

After notice to the State, EPA may take action pursuant to RCRA §3008, including action against the holder of a State-issued permit, on the ground that the permittee is not complying with a condition of that permit. In addition, EPA may take action under §3008 of RCRA against a holder of a State-issued permit on the ground that the permittee is not complying with a condition that the Regional Administrator, in commenting on that permit application or draft permit, stated was necessary to implement approved State Program requirements, whether or not that condition was included in the final permit. EPA may take action under RCRA §3008 in a manner consistent with EPA's Hazardous Waste Civil Enforcement Response Policy dated December 2003 or any revisions thereto.

Under §3008(a)(3) of RCRA, EPA may terminate a State-issued permit in accordance with the procedures of 40 CFR part 124 or bring an enforcement action in the case of a violation of a State Program requirement. In exercising these authorities, EPA will observe the conditions established in 40 CFR §271.19(e) and any other applicable authorities.

B. State

1. Compliance Monitoring

The State agrees to carry out a timely and effective program for monitoring compliance of regulated hazardous waste facilities with applicable program requirements (see 40 CFR §271.15). As part of this program, the State will conduct compliance inspections to assess compliance with hazardous waste regulations, permit requirements, compliance schedules, and all other program requirements. State-specific activities and priorities for compliance monitoring will also be included in the Grant Work Plan.

2. Enforcement

The State agrees to take timely and appropriate enforcement action and agrees to make significant noncomplier (“SNC”) determinations in a manner consistent with EPA's Hazardous Waste Civil Enforcement Response Policy dated December 2003, or any revisions thereto, against all persons in violation of hazardous waste regulations, permit requirements, compliance schedules, and all other program requirements.

The State will maintain procedures for receiving and ensuring proper consideration of information

about violations submitted by the public. The State agrees to retain all records for at least three (3) years, unless there is an enforcement action pending. In that case, all records will be retained for three (3) years after the action is resolved.

X. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Parties are executing this MOA to reflect the current status of the State Program. This MOA will be signed by the Director and the Regional Administrator and will become effective on the date signed by the Regional Administrator.

Also, this MOA will be included in the next authorization revision submitted to EPA. The State and EPA will continue to update this MOA to accurately reflect the changes to the status of the State Program.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

David Paylor
BY: _____
Name

Digitally signed by: David Paylor
DN: CN = David Paylor email = david.
paylor@deq.virginia.gov C = AD O =
Department of Environmental Quality
Date: 2022.01.12 09:38:39 -05'00'

TITLE: Director

DATE: 1/12/22

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
REGION III

ADAM ORTIZ
BY: _____
Name

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Date: 2022.10.07 16:15:08
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TITLE: Regional Administrator

DATE: _____