

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
AND
THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VI

I. GENERAL

This Memorandum of Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") establishes policies, responsibilities, and procedures pursuant to 40 CFR 271.8 for the State of Arkansas' hazardous waste program (hereinafter "State Program") authorized under Section 3006 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (hereinafter "RCRA" or "the Act") of 1976 (42 USC 6901 et seq.), as amended (Public laws 94-580, 96-482, 98-616), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (hereinafter "EPA") Regional Office for Region VI. This Agreement further sets forth the manner in which the State and EPA will coordinate in the State's administration and enforcement of the State program and, pending State authorization, EPA's administration of the provisions of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 ("HSWA"). For purposes of this Agreement, references to "RCRA" include HSWA.

This Agreement is entered into by the Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (hereinafter "Director", "ADEQ", or "the State") and the Regional Administrator, EPA Region VI (hereinafter "Regional Administrator" or "EPA").

For administrative purposes, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality will serve as lead agency to simplify coordination and communication between the State and EPA.

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to restrict in any way EPA's authority to fulfill its oversight and enforcement responsibilities under RCRA. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to contravene any provision of 40 CFR Part 271.

The parties will review the Agreement jointly at least once a year (and other times as appropriate) during preparation of the annual State grant work program, in connection with grant funding under section 3011 of RCRA.

This Agreement supplants the Agreement which was effective on June 5, 1990 and any subsequent amendments or revisions. This Agreement may be modified upon the initiative of either party in order to ensure consistency with State program modifications made or for any other purpose mutually agreed upon. Any revisions or modifications to this Agreement must be in writing and must be signed by the State and the Regional Administrator. This Agreement will remain in effect until such time as State program authorization is withdrawn by or is voluntarily

transferred to EPA according to the criteria and procedures established in 40 CFR 271.22 and 40 CFR 271.23.

This Agreement shall be executed by the State and the Regional Administrator and shall become effective at the time the State's authorization takes effect, which shall be the date set out in the *Federal Register* notice of the Regional Administrator's decision to grant authorization to the State.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Each of the parties to this Agreement is responsible for ensuring that its obligations under RCRA are met. Upon granting of final authorization by EPA, the State assumes primary responsibility for implementing the authorized provisions of the RCRA hazardous waste program within its boundaries. 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. The State and the Regional Administrator agree to maintain a high level of cooperation and coordination between their respective staffs in a partnership to assure successful and effective administration of the State program.

Section 3006(g) of the 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. While EPA retains responsibility for the direct implementation of those provisions of HSWA which the State is not authorized to implement, it is the intention of EPA and the State to coordinate the implementation of such provisions to the greatest degree possible.

EPA assumes an oversight role upon granting final authorization to the State. EPA will oversee implementation of the authorized State program in order to ensure full execution of the requirements of RCRA, to promote national consistency in 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 desirable technical support and targets for joint efforts to prevent and mitigate environmental problems associated with the improper management of hazardous wastes. Oversight will be accomplished by EPA through written reporting requirements, permit overview, compliance and enforcement overview, and annual review of the State's programs.

III. INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS

The State agrees that the Final Authorization of the RCRA program in Arkansas by EPA constitutes an "interstate agreement" within the meaning of the Arkansas Resource Reclamation Act (Act 1098 of 1979, Ark. Code Ann. 8-7-301 *et. seq.*) that effectuates the purposes of said Act 1098. The State further agrees not to enforce any transportation or disposal ban on hazardous waste in the State of Arkansas, or to take enforcement action against a transporter of hazardous

waste solely because such waste may have originated in a state or states which has (have) not entered into an interstate agreement or compact with the State of Arkansas.

IV. STATE PROGRAM REVIEW

A. General

The Regional Administrator will assess the State administration and enforcement of the hazardous waste program on a continuing basis for equivalence and consistency with RCRA, this Agreement, and all applicable Federal requirements and policies, and for adequacy of enforcement. This assessment will be accomplished by EPA review of information submitted by the State in accordance with this Agreement and the State grant work program, permit overview, compliance and enforcement overview, and annual review of State program activities. The Regional Administrator may also consider, as part of this 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. Copies of any such comments received by the Regional Administrator will be provided to the State.

To ensure effective program review, the State agrees to allow EPA access to all files and other information requested by the Regional Administrator or his or her designee and deemed necessary by EPA for reviewing State program administration and enforcement.

Review of ADEQ files may be scheduled at quarterly intervals. Program review meetings between the State and the Regional Administrator or their assignees 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 agreed to differently. A tentative agenda for the meeting will be prepared by EPA.

B. Identification of Priority Activities

The State and EPA agree to develop, on an annual basis as a part of the State grant work plan, criteria for priority activities, including activities regarding handlers of hazardous waste. These criteria will be based on guidance issued by EPA in the annual Agency Operating Year Guidance/RCRA Implementation Plan and other guidance documents as may be appropriate, and will serve to identify those activities which should receive the highest priority during the grant period.

Examples of activities which will be considered high priority will include, but not be limited to, facilities to be inspected, facilities to be permitted, and enforcement against facilities with known or suspected groundwater contamination.

V. INFORMATION SHARING

A. General

As the national hazardous waste program matures, the respective roles and responsibilities in this State/Federal partnership will become more clear. As the respective information needs of the State and EPA evolve, changes to this section of the Agreement may be appropriate. During the annual review of this Agreement the State and the Regional Administrator will carefully examine the following information sharing provisions for needed revision.

B. EPA

1. EPA will keep ADEQ informed of the content and meaning of Federal statutes, regulations, guidelines, standards, policy decisions, directives, and any other factors that affect the State program. EPA will also provide general technical guidance to ADEQ. EPA will share with ADEQ any national reports developed by EPA from the data submitted through State reporting requirements.
2. ADEQ and EPA have agreed to a joint permitting process (see Section VI.D of this Agreement). Under this process ADEQ and EPA have established policies and procedures by which each will pursue their respective and/or joint responsibilities under HSWA.

ADEQ and EPA agree to the sharing of information as specified under "VI.D Joint Permitting Process" and the annual State grant work program. Specifically included shall be the procedures for sharing and coordinating the exchange of information on the following:

- a. Part A and Part B permit applications, whether received prior to the effective date of this Agreement or subsequent to the effective date of this Agreement and whether first received by ADEQ or EPA;
 - b. Such other information necessary to support the foregoing information;
 - c. Copies of draft permits, proposed permit modifications, public notices;
 - d. Copies of final permits and permit modifications; and
 - e. Notices of permit denials.
3. EPA agrees to make available to ADEQ copies of any reports and data resulting from compliance inspections within forty-five (45) days of completion of the inspections.
 4. EPA agrees to provide ADEQ with notification information from EPA Form 8700-12 obtained prior to the effective date of this Agreement if such information has not already been provided to ADEQ. The Director and EPA shall agree on the format in which the information will be provided and the information will be provided within thirty days of the effective date of this Agreement. EPA will also forward, on a monthly basis, notification

information (including newly assigned EPA identification numbers) submitted by persons in ADEQ who file such forms after the effective date of this Agreement. This information will be submitted to the Director within 10 days of the end of each month for the preceding month.

5. EPA agrees to assign EPA identification numbers to generators and transporters and to owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities submitting notifications after the effective date of this Agreement. Pursuant to section 3010 and according to agreements between EPA and ADEQ, ADEQ is responsible for receiving, processing, and verifying information on notification forms (Form 8700-12) and for forwarding such information to EPA for the assignment of EPA identification numbers.
6. EPA will make available to ADEQ other relevant information as requested which ADEQ needs to implement its approved program. Information provided to ADEQ will be subject to the terms of 40 CFR Part 2.

C. ADEQ

1. ADEQ agrees to inform the Regional Administrator in advance of any proposed program changes which would affect ADEQ's ability to implement the authorized program. Program changes of concern include modification of ADEQ'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 (i.e., available or budgeted personnel and funds). ADEQ 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.
2. Annually, through development of the State grant work program, EPA and ADEQ will agree on the type and frequency of reports ADEQ will make in order for EPA to maintain oversight of the implementation of the State's authorized program. Such reporting shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

 - a. Compliance monitoring and enforcement information;
 - b. Information indicating the status of ADEQ's permitting, closure, post-closure, ground-water monitoring, and corrective action activities;
 - c. Various reports designed to accurately describe the status of ADEQ's authorized program including biennial reports summarizing the quantities and types of hazardous waste generated, transported, treated, stored and disposed in the State; and
 - d. ADEQ decisions to grant variances and waiver requests made by hazardous waste handlers.

3. ADEQ agrees to provide EPA with a copy of any decisions regarding requests made by hazardous waste handlers to change their classifications (e.g., requests to be deleted as generators but to retain facility status) and facility requests to make on-site changes prior to permit issuance (e.g., requests to handle additional wastes not identified on the facility's original notification and RCRA Part A Permit Application.)
4. ADEQ agrees to provide EPA with copies of reports on data resulting from any compliance inspection and subsequent enforcement actions, when EPA requests such copies.
5. ADEQ agrees to provide any pertinent information requested by the Regional Administrator or his or her designee within a mutually agreed upon time frame, as necessary for EPA to carry out its oversight responsibilities. Unless otherwise agreed upon, the above information shall be sent to: U.S. EPA Region VI, ATTN: Arkansas Project Officer, 6H-HS, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202.
6. ADEQ agrees to provide EPA with a copy of each State decision regarding variances and waivers at the time such requests are granted.
7. ADEQ agrees to provide any pertinent information requested by EPA within a mutually agreed-upon time frame, as necessary for EPA to carry out its oversight responsibilities.

D. Site Visits

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 certain information, EPA will first seek to gain this information from ADEQ. ADEQ agrees to supply the Regional Administrator with this information if readily available and as resources allow. If ADEQ is unable to provide the information or if it is necessary to supplement ADEQ information, EPA may conduct a special survey or perform information collection site visits after notifying ADEQ. EPA will share with ADEQ any national reports developed by EPA as a result of such information collection survey or site visit.

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 such information shall immediately notify by telephone the other party to this Agreement of the existence of such situation.

The ADEQ contact shall be: Emergency Response Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, 8001 National Drive, Little Rock, AR 72209. Phone: (501) 682-0744 or (501) 374-1201 (after working hours).

The EPA contact shall be: Emergency Response Branch, U.S. EPA, Region VI, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75202. Phone: (214) 665-2222.

F. Confidentiality

1. Any information obtained or used in the administration of the State program shall be available to EPA upon request without restriction. If the information has been submitted to ADEQ under a claim of confidentiality, ADEQ must submit that claim to EPA when providing information. Any information obtained from a State and subject to a claim of confidentiality will be treated in accordance with the regulations in 40 CFR Part 2.
2. EPA agrees to furnish to ADEQ information in its files which is not submitted under a claim of confidentiality and which ADEQ needs to implement its program. Subject to the conditions in 40 CFR Part 2, EPA will furnish ADEQ information submitted to EPA under a claim of confidentiality which ADEQ needs to implement its program. All information EPA agrees to transfer to ADEQ will be transferred in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR Part 2. EPA will notify affected facilities when such information is sent to ADEQ.

VI. PERMIT ISSUANCE

A. EPA Permitting

Upon authorization of the State program EPA will suspend issuance of Federal permits for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for which ADEQ is receiving authorization.

Whenever EPA adds HSWA permitting standards for processes not currently covered by State or Federal regulations, or more stringent than those currently in effect under the authorized State program, EPA will process and enforce HSWA permits in the State in the new areas until ADEQ receives final authorization for them. At the time the State program is approved in the new areas, EPA will suspend issuance of Federal permits in the State. EPA will also transfer any pending permit applications, completed permits or pertinent file information to ADEQ within thirty (30) days of the approval of the State program in conformance with the conditions of this Agreement.

ADEQ and EPA have agreed to a joint permitting process (see section VI.D of this Agreement) for the joint processing and enforcement of permits for those provisions of HSWA for which ADEQ does not have authorization. As ADEQ receives authorization for additional provisions of the HSWA, EPA will suspend issuance of Federal permits in the State for those provisions.

B. EPA Overview of State Permits

While EPA may comment on any permit application or draft permit, EPA's overview function will focus primarily on those facilities identified by ADEQ and EPA in ADEQ's Multi-Year Permit Strategy, annual State Grant Work Program and ADEQ's Program Description.

EPA may comment in writing on any draft permit or proposed permit modification, whether or not EPA commented on the permit application, within forty-five days of its receipt. 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 shall include in the comment:

- a. A statement of the reasons for the comment (including the section of the State law or regulations that supports the comment), and
- b. The actions that should be taken by ADEQ in order to address the comment (including the conditions which the permit would include if it were issued by EPA).

EPA shall send a copy of its written comments to the permit applicant.

EPA shall withdraw such comments when satisfied that ADEQ has met or refuted its concerns and shall also provide the permit applicant with a copy of such withdrawal.

When the EPA and ADEQ staffs cannot reach resolution on draft permits, the Director of ADEQ shall confer with the Regional Administrator and both shall direct all their staff to coordinate and negotiate, as necessary, and to efficiently discuss and consider all comments and concerns and to resolve all misunderstandings. A time frame, not to exceed sixty (60) days, shall be established by the Director and the Regional Administrator for staff resolution. Any conflicts thereupon remaining shall be resolved within thirty (30) days by the mutual decision of the Director and the Regional Administrator.

Under section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, EPA may terminate a State-issued permit in accordance with the procedures of 40 CFR Part 124, Subpart E, or bring an enforcement action in accordance with the procedures of 40 CFR Part 22 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).

C. State Permitting

ADEQ 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 contained in the authorized provisions of ADEQ's program and shall do so in a manner consistent with RCRA as amended by HSWA, this Agreement, all applicable Federal requirements, and ADEQ's Program Description.

ADEQ agrees to issue, modify and reissue all permits contained in the authorized portions of ADEQ's program in accordance with the Arkansas Hazardous Waste Management Act and Code and to include as permit conditions all applicable provisions of such statutes and regulations.

This agreement also applies to permits issued after final authorization but for which the processing may have begun before final authorization.

ADEQ agrees that in exercise of its statutory variance authority (Ark. Code Ann. 8-7-211) it shall not grant any variances that will result in any requirements less stringent than comparable federal statutory or regulatory requirements.

ADEQ agrees that any compliance schedules contained in permits it issues will require compliance with applicable standards as soon as possible.

ADEQ agrees to consider all comments EPA makes on permit applications and draft permits. ADEQ will satisfy or refute EPA's concerns on a particular permit application, proposed permit modification, or draft permit in writing before issuing the permit or making the modification.

D. Joint Permitting Process

Pursuant to RCRA §3006(g)(1), and in accordance with the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, EPA has the authority to issue or deny permits or those portions of permits to facilities in Arkansas for the requirements and prohibitions in or stemming from HSWA until ADEQ's program is amended to reflect those requirements and prohibitions and authorization is received for the portion or portions of the program.

EPA and ADEQ hereby establish this joint permitting process for the issuance of RCRA permits in Arkansas. This joint permitting process is established in accordance with section 3006(c)(3) of RCRA. The details of the joint permitting process shall be incorporated into the annual State grant work program. The duties and responsibilities of EPA and ADEQ for joint permitting shall also be specified in the Joint Permitting Agreement established as a part of the annual State grant work program.

The details of the joint permitting process as contained in ADEQ's Grant Work Program shall be reviewed and revised as often as necessary, but no less often than annually to assure its continued appropriateness.

Upon authorization of ADEQ for any of the provisions of HSWA, the specifics of the Joint Permitting Agreement as set in the annual State grant work program shall be amended to reflect the authorization. Amendment of this Memorandum of Agreement or the execution of a separate Memorandum of Agreement may be required for authorization of any of the provisions of HSWA.

VII. PERMIT ADMINISTRATION

A. EPA

EPA will administer the RCRA permits or portions of permits it has issued to facilities in the State until they expire or are terminated. EPA will be responsible for enforcing the terms and

conditions of the Federal permits while they remain in force. When ADEQ 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 Part 270 and rely on ADEQ to enforce those terms and conditions subject to the terms of the Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

B. ADEQ

ADEQ agrees to review all hazardous waste permits which were issued under State law prior to the effective date of this Agreement and to assume responsibility for delegated HSWA provisions as of the effective date of authorization, or to modify or revoke and reissue such permits as necessary to require compliance with the amended State Program, the Arkansas Hazardous Waste Management Act, Code, and Regulation No. 8. ADEQ agrees to modify or revoke and reissue these State permits as RCRA permits, as necessary, in accordance with the annual State grant workplan.

VIII. COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

A. EPA

Nothing in this Agreement shall restrict EPA's right to inspect any hazardous waste generator, transporter or facility or bring enforcement action against any person believed to be in violation of the State or Federal hazardous waste program or believed to have a release of hazardous waste or constituent. Before conducting an inspection of a generator, transporter, or facility, the Regional Administrator will normally give ADEQ at least thirty (30) days written notice of the intent to inspect in accordance with 40 CFR 271.8(b)(3)(i). If ADEQ performs a compliance inspection and submits to EPA a report and data relevant thereto within that time, no EPA inspection will be made, unless the Regional Administrator deems the State report and data to be inadequate. In case of an imminent hazard to human health and the environment, the Regional Administrator may shorten or waive the notice period.

ADEQ has the primary responsibility under the State program to inspect and/or bring enforcement action against any hazardous waste generator, transporter, or facility in Arkansas. Without limiting, in any manner, EPA's ability to inspect and/or enforce, it is agreed that EPA will inspect or enforce in three situations: 1) when for policy reasons EPA, unrelated to the ability or willingness of ADEQ to inspect or enforce in a timely manner, desires to inspect and/or enforce; 2) when in EPA's judgment ADEQ fails to take timely and appropriate enforcement action, or fails to timely and properly inspect; and 3) upon request by ADEQ.

In reference to category 1 above, the frequency of EPA oversight and training inspections will be specified in the annual State work program. Normally, EPA will accompany ADEQ on no more than 10% of ADEQ's compliance inspections. Inspections and enforcement actions under this category shall not reflect or constitute evidence of any inability or unwillingness on the part of ADEQ.

In reference to category 2 above, when in EPA's judgment ADEQ fails to take timely and appropriate enforcement action, or fails to timely and properly inspect: before conducting an inspection of a generator, transporter, or facility, the Regional Administrator will give the Director not less than fifteen days' notice of the intent to inspect in accordance with 40 CFR 271.8(b)(3)(i). If ADEQ performs a compliance inspection and submits a report and data relevant thereto within that time to EPA, no EPA inspection will be made, unless the Regional Administrator deems the ADEQ report and data to be inadequate. In the event the Regional Administrator deems the report and data inadequate, the Regional Administrator will provide to the Director a written statement of the deficiencies upon which such a determination is based. The statement of deficiencies will be provided within fifteen days following a determination of inadequacy. In case of an imminent hazard to human health or the environment, the Regional Administrator may shorten or waive the notice period. EPA enforcement in regard to this category shall then be initiated in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Enforcement MOU.

EPA may take enforcement action against any person determined to be in violation of RCRA in accordance with section 3008(a)(2). EPA will take enforcement action upon determining that ADEQ has not taken timely and appropriate enforcement action or upon request by ADEQ. Prior to issuing a compliance order under section 3008(a) EPA will give notice to ADEQ. EPA also retains its rights to issue orders and bring actions under sections 3008(h), 3013 and 7003 of RCRA and any other applicable Federal statute.

EPA may not take action under section 3008 of RCRA against a holder of a State-issued permit on the grounds that the permittee is not complying with a condition of that permit necessary to implement approved State program requirements, unless the Regional Administrator stated, in commenting on the permit application or draft permit, that the condition was necessary following the procedures set forth at 40 CFR 271.19(b) and Section V.B of this Agreement. EPA may, however, take action under section 3008 of RCRA against a holder of a State-issued permit on the grounds 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.

B. State

ADEQ agrees to carry out a timely and effective program for monitoring compliance by generators, transporters, and facilities with applicable program requirements as defined in the State/ EPA Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding and annual State grant work program against all persons in violation of generator and transporter standards (including manifest requirements), facility standards, permit requirements, compliance schedules, and all other program requirements, including violations detected by State or Federal compliance inspections. As part of this program, ADEQ will conduct inspections to assess compliance with generator and transporter standards (including manifest requirements), facility standards, permit requirements, compliance schedules, and all other program requirements. Compliance monitoring activities and priorities will be specified in the annual State grant work program and shall be consistent with all applicable Federal requirements and with ADEQ's Program

Description. ADEQ will maintain procedures for receiving and ensuring proper consideration or information about violations submitted by the public.

ADEQ agrees that in assessing civil penalties under Section 9 of Regulation No. 7 that it will apply the factors therein set forth in the manner provided by 40 CFR 271.16(c).

ADEQ agrees to retain all records for at least three years unless there is an enforcement action pending. In that case all records will be retained until such action is resolved. EPA also agrees to retain all records for at least three years.

IX. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION (section 3006(f))

A. General

Section 3006(f) of RCRA provides that States may be authorized by the Administrator under this section if the State program provides for the public availability of information obtained by the State regarding facilities and sites for treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste; and that such information is available to the public in substantially the same manner, and to the same degree, as would be the case if the Administrator were carrying out the provisions of this subtitle in the State.

B. Requests for Information

1. Pursuant to the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2), ADEQ agrees to make certain materials routinely available without a formal FOIA request. Examples of these materials are final opinions or orders in case adjudication, State regulations, statements of Agency policy, and administrative staff manuals affecting the public. In addition, records prepared for routine public distribution will also be made available. Examples of such records are press releases, copies of speeches, pamphlets, and educational materials.
2. ADEQ agrees to make reasonable efforts to assist a requester in identifying records being sought, and to help the requester formulate his or her request.
3. If a request for information is denied, ADEQ agrees to provide the requester the basis for the denial and to notify the requester of State judicial (or, if they exist, administrative) procedures, including statutes of limitation.
4. ADEQ agrees to make the fullest possible disclosure of records to the public, subject to any of the exemptions under the Federal FOIA recognized by the State.
5. A reduction or waiver of fees will be considered (but not necessarily granted) in connection with each request from a representative of the press or other communication medium, or from a public interest group. ADEQ agrees to reduce or waive fees for copying information if ADEQ determines that a waiver or reduction of fees is in the public interest

because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public. All requests for fee reductions or waivers shall be determined by the Director or his designated representative.

C. Confidentiality of Business Information

If a claim of confidentiality is asserted and cannot be resolved in the time period provided for an agency response to a request, ADEQ agrees to notify the requester of the confidentiality claim within the maximum 20-day time limit provided for an agency response. In addition, the requester will be told that the request was denied in order to resolve the business confidentiality claim.

D. Oversight


1. ADEQ agrees to keep a log of denials of requests for information (or a file containing copies of denial letters sent to requesters) which will be made available to EPA during ADEQ review.
2. ADEQ agrees to keep EPA fully informed of any proposed modifications to its basic statutory or regulatory authority, its forms, procedures, or priorities, as applied to section 3006(f).

X. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

When the EPA and ADEQ staffs cannot reach resolution on an issue, the Director of ADEQ shall confer with the Regional Administrator and both shall direct all their staff to coordinate and negotiate, as necessary, and to efficiently discuss and consider all comments and concerns, and to resolve all misunderstandings. A time frame, not to exceed sixty (60) days, shall be established by the Director and the Regional Administrator for staff resolution. Any conflicts thereupon remaining shall be resolved within thirty (30) days by the mutual decision of the Director and the Regional Administrator.

STATE OF ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

US.ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
REGION VI



RICHARD A. WEISS
Interim Director



GREG COOKE
Region VI Administrator

11-3-00

(Date)

4-05-02

(Date)