

**Mr. Jimmy Palmer, Regional Administrator  
United State Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4,  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960**

August 7, 2002

Mr. Jimmy Palmer, Regional Administrator  
United State Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4, Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Dear Mr. Palmer:

**Subject: Request That EPA Not Withdraw Interim Authorization of Mississippi's Lead-Based Paint Training and Certification Program**

Your June 24, 2002, letter to Charles Chisolm providing notification of EPA's intent to withdraw interim authorization of Mississippi's Lead-Based Paint Training and Certification Program ("Lead-Based Paint Program") makes it clear that changes to Mississippi law are necessary to address EPA's concerns. Moreover, as your letter indicates, because the next regular session of the Mississippi Legislature will not convene until January of 2003, it may not be possible to effect these required statutory changes within the 180 days specified in federal regulations. However, because the impact of loss of program authorization would be significant to Mississippi citizens and businesses, I am requesting that you give Mississippi the full 180 days to demonstrate to EPA's satisfaction that the Legislature will pass the required changes before April 1, 2003.

I intend shortly to convene a task force of the key legislators, interest groups and my office that were involved in the 2002 legislative debate on proposed amendments to the Mississippi Audit Privilege/Penalty Mitigation Statue. I will ask this task force to negotiate a bill to address the EPA concerns. Once this bill has been drafted and endorsed by all of the task force members, I will submit an additional request that EPA not withdraw interim authorization of Mississippi's Lead-Based Paint Program pending action on the bill by the 2003 Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please let me know as soon as possible if this proposal is acceptable to you.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:mtb:sed