

Mr. Stan Meiburg, Acting Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

September 14, 2001

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Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

RE: EPA's Intent to Withdraw Approval for the a Portion of the Certification of
Commercial and Private Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides

Dear Mr. Meiburg:

This is in response to your letter of May 31, 2001. Based on short-term and long-term changes regarding the membership and functioning of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Board (AAB), I am requesting that EPA not withdraw approval for Mississippi's program for Certification of Commercial and Private Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides.

During the upcoming regular legislative session, which will begin in January and run through March 2002, I will ask the Mississippi Legislature to reconstitute the AAB to reflect a broader spectrum of Mississippi interests. In general, the Board should include a mix of state agency officials, representatives of our universities, citizens, and some continuing representation from the agricultural aviation community. If the Legislature makes these requested changes, the amended law would become effective by July 1, 2002, or earlier.

The Agriculture Aviation Board members are in the process of submitting their resignations. My personal staff and staff of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will work closely with the newly composed board. Please let me know as soon as possible if these proposals are acceptable to you.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:MTB:sed