

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 844

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi recognizes the critical importance of safe drinking water for all people and clean water for state's sustainable growth and development; and

WHEREAS, proper treatment and handling of wastewater is critical to the public health and safety of our state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has recreational beaches, coastal waters, streams, rivers, and lakes that are essential to the quality of life for all Mississippians; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi's fresh and saltwater resources are highly valuable and critically important to the sustainable economies of our local communities; and

WHEREAS, Mississippians rely on 1,586 public water supply systems across our state for safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS, 286 boil water notices were issued to counties during the last year; and

WHEREAS, Mississippians rely on approximately 1,900 treatment facilities across our state for proper treatment and handling wastewater; and

WHEREAS, approximately 60 percent of Mississippi's monitored rivers do not fully meet state water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi has experienced natural disasters that have contaminated drinking water; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order the following:

I. PURPOSE

The Governor's Water and Sewer Task Force shall be a time-limited commission with the sole purpose of assessing, evaluating, and recommending action regarding the safeguarding and enhancement of Mississippi's water resources and the infrastructure.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Commission shall consist of the following members, or their designees, who shall be appointed by and serve at the will and pleasure of the Governor:

- a. Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality;
- b. Secretary of State;
- c. Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce;
- d. Chief Fiscal Officer;
- e. Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority;
- f. Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency;
- g. Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard;
- h. State Health Officer;

- i. Executive Director of the Department of Marine Resources;
- j. Executive Director of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks;
- k. Chief of Staff for the Public Utilities Staff of the Public Service Commission;
- l. Two (2) Senators as designated by the Lieutenant Governor;
- m. Two (2) Representatives as designated by the Speaker of the House;
- n. Executive Director of the Mississippi Municipal Association;
- o. Executive Director of the Mississippi Supervisors Associations;
- p. Executive Director of the Mississippi Rural Water Association;
- q. Executive Director of the Mississippi Water and Pollution Control Operators Association;
- r. Executive Director of the Mississippi USDA Rural Development Authority;
- s. Chief Engineer of the U.S. Corps of Engineers—Vicksburg District;
- t. U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- u. Three (3) representatives, at-large;
- v. At least one (1) representative from the Governor’s Office; and,
- w. Other members not yet included but determined to be necessary by the Governor.

The Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality shall serve as chair of the task force, and the Department of Environmental Quality shall provide administrative support for the task force.

III. FUNCTIONS

The Commission is hereby charged with developing for the Governor proposed recommendations for assuring the quality and safety of Mississippi’s water resources. The initial recommendations to the Governor shall be made on or before October 15, 2001.

IV. COMPENSATION

Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for service on the Commission and shall receive per diem and reimbursement for actual expenses only to the extent allowed by specific legislation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, March 28, 2001, in two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.



RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

ERIC CLARK
SECRETARY OF STATE