

Jeff Koerner, Director
Division of Air Resource Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 5000
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Dear Mr. Koerner:

This correspondence is being sent to provide you with the final assessment of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) title V program based on the evaluation conducted August 31-September 1, 2017, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of our visit was not only to evaluate the status and the ability of FDEP to carry out its duties and responsibilities required to effectively run the title V program, but also to find out how the EPA can best assist FDEP in meeting this commitment. The program evaluation consisted of a review of title V revenue and expenses, permit issuance, staffing, public participation, environmental justice, and selected permit files.

Based on this latest evaluation, the EPA believes that FDEP is implementing and operating the title V program in accordance with the requirements set forth in 40 CFR part 70. The most notable indicator of your program's effectiveness is the lack of a backlog with respect to permit issuance. It is apparent also that measures put into place to improve the training as well as the retention of staff have resulted in your program's ability to maintain such high permit issuance rates. The only concern we noted (as a result of reviewing the pre-selected permit files) was the occasional inability to locate relevant permitting documents (*e.g.*, permit applications and public notices). We believe this may likely be due to the reliance on two separate databases, *Oculus* and Air Permit Document Search (or APDS), by the program. Relevant permitting documents were typically found in one database or the other and, in some cases, neither (*e.g.*, public notice affidavits). The EPA therefore advises FDEP to further investigate how *Oculus* and APDS can be better integrated/implemented to ensure the availability of all relevant permitting documents as specified by 40 CFR § 70.7(h)(2).

I would like to thank you and your staff for the cooperation and hospitality that was shown throughout this process. If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me (404) 562-9326 or have your staff contact Art Hofmeister or Randy Terry of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9115 or (404) 562-9032, respectively.

Sincerely,

Beverly H. Banister
Director
Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

SEP 20 2017

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly H. Banister".

Beverly H. Banister

Director

Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division