



PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

**between the
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
and the
US Environmental Protection Agency Region I**

Federal Fiscal Years 2000 & 2001

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth Rhode Island Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA) within the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS). It is the first PPA that consolidates the 13 EPA funded DEM programs into a single performance partnership agreement, integrates the major Department FY 2000 work plan elements, includes work plans for both DEM and EPA, and covers a two year period. More importantly, the agreement includes specific environmental indicators and performance measures to establish accountability and to help gauge progress in achieving goals. This grant replaces media-specific grant commitments (air, water, waste, pesticides, etc.) with a flexible multimedia grant that judge's success on environmental benefits as well as on program activities.

We can achieve better results with a more integrated approach than was possible under the EPA categorical grants, and by testing strategies to improve environmental protection. The parties are working together to overcome barriers to achieving these objectives and to allocate resources and be accountable for achieving environmental results.

PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

This agreement between the Regional Administrator of Region I of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Region I) and the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM or the Department), for federal fiscal years 2000 and 2001 (FFY00-01) formalizes a partnership and dynamic framework for interaction between EPA and RIDEM.

Public input has been incorporated in developing this PPA to reflect the significant role that communities, environmental and public interest groups, businesses, community and watershed organizations play in meeting environmental goals. The agreement includes a responsiveness summary reflecting comments collected since the draft work plan was released to the public and placed on the Internet in early October.

SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

The PPA is designed to articulate clear environmental objectives and meaningful performance measures. This agreement marks a radical departure from the media-based approach. All commitments in the Department's and EPA's Work Plans and this PPA are organized around broad goals with related environmental indicators, strategies, and performance measures. The performance measures will be used in quarterly evaluations to assess progress toward meeting targets. Some measures are still being refined through the RIDEM strategic planning process. The Department and EPA have begun to close data gaps that hinder efforts to set environmental protection priorities and measure progress towards program objectives. We will work together to fill significant data gaps to improve the reporting of relevant information, and to eliminate reporting of obsolete or unneeded data.

Year-end progress reports will be exchanged in February of each of the federal fiscal years covered by this agreement. As part of this agreement the Department and EPA will work together to develop a self-assessment that measures Performance toward meeting environmental indicators and performance measures. The assessment will be completed by December 2001.

The following documents describe in detail the work that is proposed for the term of this agreement. They are available on the DEM website at www.state.ri.us/dem, and hard copies are available at public libraries throughout the state.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Work Plan for FFY2000-2001.

The Department’s work plan is organized around seven broad goals: clean air; clean and plentiful water; livable communities; healthy ecosystems; viable natural resource based industries; abundant open space and recreational opportunities; and open and effective government. The work plan includes the Department’s state funded programs as well as programs supported by this Performance Partnership Agreement. RIDEM's total budget for FY2000 is \$76 million, which includes \$5,163,162 from EPA’s Performance Partnership Grant (PPG).

The Department Work Plan is comprised of an Executive Summary and individual work plans for the three bureaus and each division within the bureaus, as well as two pilot watershed projects. The Executive Summary appears in Appendix A of this agreement. The individual work plans below are incorporated by reference:

Environmental Protection Bureau	Planning and Administration Bureau	Natural Resources Bureau
Air Resources Compliance and Inspection Technical and Customer Assistance Waste Management Water Resources	Administrative Adjudication Criminal Investigation Human Resources Legal Services Management Services Planning and Development Strategic Planning and Policy	Agriculture Coastal Resources Enforcement Fish and Wildlife Forest Environment Parks and Recreation Narragansett Bay Estuarine Research Reserve
	Watershed Work Plans South County Woonasquatucket	

EPA Region I Work Plan for FFY2000-2001. EPA’s Work Plan represents EPA’s commitments to the Partnership. The work plan aligns all of EPA’s activities in Rhode Island under six broad goals: clean air; clean and plentiful water; livable communities; healthy ecosystems; prevention of risks from exposure to hazardous materials; and effective management. The EPA work plan appears in Appendix B.

In 1999, EPA provided in excess of \$36,000,000 in funding to support environmental and public health protection programs and initiatives in Rhode Island. In addition, EPA/NE provides an estimated \$3 million in staff support to environmental and public health agencies, environmental organizations, business and industry groups and for community-based related efforts each year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Department held public meetings on November 15, 17 and 22, 1999 in South Kingstown, Portsmouth and North Providence to solicit comments on the FFY 2000-2001 Department draft work plans and PPA. The responsiveness summary in Appendix C contains DEM and EPA responses to comments and input from the public meetings as well as written or electronic communications concerning the draft work plan and PPA. The Department and EPA will continue to improve public participation in environmental decision making through stakeholder groups and public meetings and through wide distribution of agency work plans. The watershed pilots also seek to further increase participation by local groups in setting priorities, and in planning and implementing strategies in the watersheds.

INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

EPA and RIDEM agree to track progress, identify problems and, with public participation, make changes as needed during the grant cycle. RIDEM and EPA PPA representatives are listed below.

The following principles will guide the coordination effort:

- EPA and DEM will meet as needed to discuss progress on the PPA.
- EPA and DEM will meet early to discuss specific steps for more timely, less burdensome implementation of the PPA.
- EPA and DEM will provide progress reports on a mutually agreed upon schedule
- EPA and DEM will work together to develop a self-assessment that measures performance toward meeting environmental indicators and performance measures. Both agencies will complete the assessment by December 2001.
- EPA and DEM recognize that the University of Rhode Island (URI) plays a key role in carrying out many aspects of the agreement and that URI will be responsible for implementing tasks specifically assigned to URI in the work plans.

RIDEM will provide End of Year Reports to EPA for FFY98 and FFY 99 by February 15, 2000.

RE-OPENING THE AGREEMENT

In recognition of the fact that this agreement is the first to cover a two-year period, and that the details of first year activities are far more developed than those for the second year, the agencies agree to evaluate progress toward meeting objectives and to re-open the agreement in August of 2000. The planned activities for the second year of the agreement will be developed in greater detail at that time and may include the addition of more specific targets for some objectives, such as the reduction of pollutant loading. The agencies also agree to re-open the agreement in the spring of 2000 to finalize the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures for draft work plans for the South County and Woonasquatucket Watersheds based on input from internal and external stakeholders. Further, the parties agree to re-open the agreement at any time during the grant period by mutual consent of the parties.

PPA REPRESENTATIVES

The following is a list of DEM and EPA staff members who are responsible for reviewing and approving final work plans for their respective areas:

	EPA/NE	RIDEM
Overall Program	Robert Mendoza	Janet Keller
Water Programs	Margherita Pryor	Alicia Good
Waste	Bev Fletcher (Support from OEP and OSRR staff)	Terrence Gray
Urban Agenda	Marv Rosenstein	Janet Keller
Enforcement	Sam Silverman	Dean Albro, Claude Cote
Pesticides	Marv Rosenstein	Ken Ayars
Air	Emanuel Souza	Steve Majkut
Assistance and Pollution Prevention	Norman Willard	Ronald Gagnon
Watershed Coordination	Margherita Pryor	Scott Millar

EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT

This agreement is hereby entered into this sixth day of January 2000 and remains in effect until the 30th day of September 2001, unless amended by mutual consent.

John P. DeVillars
Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency Region I

Jan Reitsma
Director
RI Department of Environmental Management