

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (MDEQ)

AND

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION (MFC)

WHEREAS, MDEQ under authority granted by Section 49-17-17 Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, has established certain rules and regulations pertaining to agricultural and silvicultural fires, in "Air Emissions Regulations for Prevention, Abatement, and Control of Air Contaminants", APC-S-1, including the issuance of permits for the such fires; and

WHEREAS, MDEQ recognizes that MFC's wildland fire suppression responsibilities will be enhanced by the issuance of permits for agricultural and silvicultural fires in the State; and

WHEREAS, the MFC has an existing permit program for such fires; now,

THEREFORE, this COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT between the MDEQ and the MFC is entered into.

MDEQ AGREES:

1. That the MFC will issue permits to conduct agricultural and silvicultural fires in all counties of the State.
2. To furnish the MFC daily, by issuing air quality forecasts, specific guides as to whether or not such fires are to be permitted that day.
3. That the MFC will deny requests for permits for such fires during periods of extremely dry weather, fire occurrence conditions, or adverse air quality conditions.
4. To be responsible for the enforcement of all MDEQ rules and regulations pertaining to agricultural and silvicultural fires.

MFC AGREES:

1. To issue permits for agricultural and silvicultural fires in all counties of the State. The issuance or denial of such permits will be in accordance with the

daily guides furnished by the MDEQ and the National Weather Service Offices.

2. To make a record of all such permits issued and to allow the MDEQ to examine these records upon request.
3. To inform the MDEQ of the MFC's intent to deny requests for such permits when the denial is to be based on extremely dry weather or fire occurrence conditions.
4. To deny requests for permits for agricultural and silvicultural fires in the event the MDEQ invokes its "Regulation for the Prevention of Air Pollution Emergency Episodes", APC-S-3 or when an Ozone Action Day is forecast by MDEQ in accordance with APC-S-1, Section 3.7(d).

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

1. That this AGREEMENT may be amended by consent of both parties.
2. That this AGREEMENT will be in effect upon its approval by the Executive Director, MDEQ and the State Forester; and, will continue in effect until terminated by mutual consent; or, until either party, by giving 30 days written notice, withdraws from this AGREEMENT.

APPROVED:



Executive Director, MDEQ

11/2/11
Date



State Forester, MFC

12-12-2011
Date