

nificant to our future programs is that the Alabama Water Improvement Commission has upgraded its policy for minimum treatment of industrial wastes to a requirement for 75 percent BOD removal. It is my understanding that this is the minimum value which applies to any type of biodegradable industrial waste. However, where wastes are amenable to higher levels of treatment, we understand that substantially greater treatment will be attained in order to maximize water quality enhancement. I would expect to follow the success of this policy with interest, and stand ready to cooperate with you wherever necessary to achieve this mutual goal.

The Commission also agreed to a joint review with the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration to determine adequate bacteriological criteria for protection of public water supply and recreational uses of water, and to modify the standards as necessary. Furthermore, the Commission has agreed to a high degree of treatment of wastes in the Mobile Bay area and to review the water quality of the area as treatment requirements are implemented so that any appropriate revisions in the criteria and use classifications can be made. It will be necessary to monitor water quality continuously so that improvements are readily discerned and criteria and use changes made as soon as possible. Here, too, my Department stands ready to assist you in any way possible or necessary.

Successful implementation of the standards is, of course, the key to accomplishing our mutual goals of protecting and enhancing the quality and productivity of Alabama's interstate waters. Alabama is to be commended for its policy of requiring a minimum of secondary treatment for all waste discharges. Adherence to the degree of treatment specified and the time schedule proposed in the implementation plan is very important if the objectives of the water quality standards program are to be met. The annual State program plan, which your State water pollution control agency prepares and submits to the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration in connection with our grant program, can provide a basis for updating information on the status of implementing the standards.

Lastly, it is evident that our waste treatment and water pollution control technology will advance and knowledge of water quality requirements for water uses will improve, and the collection of water quality data will make more information available to assure more accurate assignment of water quality criteria. As this new knowledge becomes available, we will further expect to cooperate with the State of Alabama in making necessary amendments to the standards that have been theretofore approved. It will be our pleasure to continue to work together to protect, upgrade and enhance the quality of the water of your fine State.

Sincerely yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

WATER IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION,
STATE OFFICE BUILDING,
Montgomery, Ala., February 27, 1968.

HON. LISTER HILL,
Senator, State of Alabama,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR HILL: The Alabama Water Improvement Commission sincerely regrets the necessity for again bringing to your attention the matter of Federal approval of water quality standards adopted by the Commission for interstate waters of our State. As matters stand, we need your advice and counsel in resolving the apparent impasse which has developed between the Department of the Interior and the State with respect to dissolved oxygen and temperature criteria for waters supporting fish and aquatic life and, more particularly, the water quality degradation statement the Secretary of the Interior, Honorable Stewart L. Udall, in his latest communication with Governor Wallace, has requested as a part of our water quality standards.

I know that you have been concerned over the status of Alabama's water quality standards and have a real interest in this matter of paramount importance to our State. I assume you are aware of the Secretary's letter to Governor Wallace, dated February 15, 1968 and referred to above, in which the Secretary expresses approval of Alabama's standards, with exceptions. The exceptions taken by the