



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

September 12, 2017

Mr. Noah Valenstein  
Secretary  
Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Re: Hurricane Irma Related Relief

Dear Secretary Valenstein:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency appreciates the concerns that you have expressed regarding potential flexibility that may be necessary in order to address impacts from Hurricane Irma on certain regulated facilities. Hurricane Irma has produced circumstances beyond the reasonable control for some permittees to maintain full compliance with their permit provisions, potentially causing an upset or the need for a bypass to occur, that would result in the release of contaminated stormwater. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits specifically include "upset" and "bypass" provisions in these circumstances and the EPA fully understands these provisions may need to be utilized.

The EPA also recognizes there may be other unforeseen issues that arise as a result of this disaster and we stand ready to work together with our state partners to address these potential issues as they arise. The EPA recognizes the importance of keeping these facilities operating and where necessary getting the facilities back on line as quickly as possible and will support our partners in this effort.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Walker at (404) 562-9469 or [walker.mary@epa.gov](mailto:walker.mary@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Onis 'Trey' Glenn, III", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Onis "Trey" Glenn, III  
Regional Administrator