
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: EPA AND AG. AVIATION BOARD
DATE: 6/7/2001
CC: RENICK

The EPA's letter of notice outlines concerns with the Agriculture Aviation Board's (AAB) conduct over the last several years. Briefly, you have two options regarding the control of the agricultural aviation program:

1. You can allow EPA to take it over; or,
2. Work out a plan to keep the Aerial Spraying Program under state control.

Things to take into consideration:

- A. The AAB is composed of 5 members: Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry (MSU) and 4 Ag. Aviators selected from a list provided by the Mississippi Agriculture Aviation Assn. (You reappointed Burn Pruitt to the board last year, and will have another vacancy in December 2001.)
- B. The PEER Committee will be releasing a report within the next couple of weeks regarding the AAB. One of the recommendations may be to transfer oversight of the Aerial Spraying Program to the Bureau of Plant Industry at Mississippi State.
- C. Rep. Steve Holland has asked Dr. Spell to call a meeting for 7:30 AM Tuesday (6/12/01) with interested parties to discuss EPA's proposed action. (I will attend this meeting.)
- D. Charles Chisholm has met with Dr. Spell, Burn Pruitt (AAB Chairman) and Acting Regional Administrator Miberg (EPA). Chisholm notes that under current law only the AAB can administer the EPA program. (If this is correct, a change in the law will be required to keep the Aerial Spraying Program under state control.)
- E. This proposed action differs from EPA's takeover of DEQ in the mid-1990s. The issue for DEQ was funding and resources. The issue for AAB is compliance and enforcement.
- F. Any action that results in the program being removed from state control will likely result in significantly increased fines and penalties.
- G. The Agriculture Aviation Licensing Law will stand repealed on 12/31/04.