

SWANSON CREEK JOINT INFORMATION CENTER
CALVERT INDUSTRIAL PARK
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PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678
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August 23, 2000

Honorable Bernie Fowler
4595 Branch St.
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Dear Senator Fowler:

On behalf of the federal and state agencies working on the Patuxent River Oil Spill, I want to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the Patuxent River Oil Spill Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee's charge to assist in efforts to achieve a successful cleanup, restoration and mitigation of the area affected by the spill will aid the efforts of both state and federal agencies.

Shortly after the Patuxent River Oil Spill, a Joint Information Center (JIC) was set up by the Unified Command to provide information to the media and the public on the spill and cleanup efforts. Oversight of the JIC is provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and staffed by representatives of EPA, Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and Pepco. Additionally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been working closely with state trustee agencies to conduct a natural resource damage assessment for the Patuxent River spill. The federal and state trustee agencies have been working closely with the JIC to conduct public outreach activities.

Many of the duties assigned to your Committee are consistent with the responsibilities of the Joint Information Center, including:

- holding local meetings to inform the public about the status of the cleanup and restoration projects;
- educating the public on the benefits and limitations of cleanup and restoration methods;
- obtaining citizen input about steps that should be considered to restore natural resources;
- assisting [state agencies] in the development of the natural resource damage assessment plan and the restoration/mitigation plan; and
- advise [state agencies] on priorities for cleanup and criteria for the completion of the cleanup of the oil spill.

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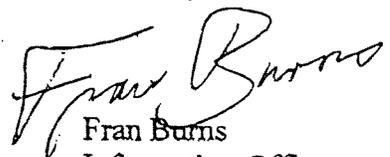
AR: Chalk Point Oil Spill

Title: Letter (23 August 2000). Fran Burns to the Honorable Bernie Fowler, re: Coordination of state and federal efforts

Given the limited resources available to federal and state agencies, we want to explore ways to work with you to achieve our common goals of providing information to, and soliciting meaningful input from, the public.

You may contact me directly, Steve Hilaski of the JIC at (410) 414-7672 or Lisa Pelstring from NOAA at (301)-713-3038 x-195, so that we can arrange a meeting to discuss collaboration between our respective organizations. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Fran Burns
Information Officer
US EPA, Region III
(215)-814-3245 or 800-553-2509