

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE
AND THE
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
CONCERNING THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS STUDY

I. Purpose

In response to the Fiscal Year 1991 Appropriations Act, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service is conducting the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Study. The National Park Service hereby enters into a cooperative understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency Region III Chesapeake Bay Program (EPA/CBP) for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information and expertise necessary to carry out the Congressionally directed Chesapeake Bay Gateways Study.


The purpose of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Study is to develop alternative concepts on enhancing public access, providing public education and interpretation on Chesapeake Bay natural and cultural heritage, and to identify appropriate future roles for the National Park Service in the on-going state/federal Chesapeake Bay protection effort. The Study will be based on current information available on the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Chesapeake Bay Region and shall be carried out in coordination with state and federal programs, incorporating the results and recommendations of existing efforts and preventing duplication of activities.

A study report will be prepared for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Study presenting options and alternative concepts for enhancing public access, interpretation and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay.

II. Understanding

- 1) The National Park Service recognizes the comprehensive public effort to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay set forth by the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement committing Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the federal government to cooperatively achieve goals and manage the Bay as an integrated ecosystem.
- 2) The National Park Service also recognizes the responsibility of the EPA/CBP, representing the federal government, under the 1987 Agreement to organize, assist and coordinate the various federal, state and local government actions collectively carried out and referred to as the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- 3) The EPA/CBP also solicits public input for incorporation into proposed and evolving policies and projects carried out under the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- 4) To assist in achieving the goals and tasks of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways study, the National Park Service will consult with the EPA/CBP, sharing work plans and study progress reports, and will seek input during the study from the EPA/CBP and from other state and federal participants in the Chesapeake Bay Program. The National Park Service will provide the EPA/CBP the opportunity to review, and provide input to, the draft and final versions of the study report.
- 5) By entering into this study agreement, the EPA/CBP will assist the National Park Service in carrying out project tasks by sharing information, providing guidance and advice, and developing opportunities, where appropriate, for study presentations and discussions during Bay Program meetings. The EPA/CBP also agrees to assist in the distribution, for review and comment, of both draft and final versions of the study report.
- 6) Upon conclusion of this study and production of a final study report, both agencies will consider the establishment of processes to continue coordination and cooperation with respect to the Chesapeake Bay, if appropriate and dependent upon available resources. To this end, both agencies will assess alternatives and possible options during the term of this agreement related to opportunities and procedures for on-going working relationships between both agencies related to resource conservation and the Chesapeake Bay.

This Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective on the date of signature by both parties and continues for one year until modified by mutual consent or unless terminated with 30-days written notice by either party.



James W. Coleman, Jr.
Regional Director, National Park Service Mid-Atlantic Region

10/15/91
Date



Edwin B. Erickson
Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III

10/15/91
Date

