

## **Pandemic-Related Requests for Enforcement Discretion**

No negative environmental consequences were discovered from any of the requests granted by MDE.

- Pandemic-related requests were tracked through June 30, 2021.
- 229 requests were received from January-November 2020. No requests were received from December 2020 through June 2021.
- 203 requests were granted.
  - Air and Radiation Administration received 70 and granted 69.
  - Land and Materials Administration received 43 and granted 32.
  - Water and Science Administration received 116 and granted 102.
- 102 requests were associated with closures, including 100 requests from public water systems to temporarily suspend sampling requirements at closed businesses, schools, churches, and daycare centers. All but one of these 102 requests were granted.
- 95 requests were for deadline extensions. 81 of these were granted. Examples:
  - Lafarge Holcim Sparrows Point requested an extension of its April 2020 deadline for stack testing. The extension was granted and the test was performed in December 2020.
  - Morgan State University requested an extension for an Emissions Certification Report due in April 2020. The extension was granted and the report was submitted in May 2020.
- 17 requests were for temporary exceptions to regulatory requirements. Of these, 10 were granted.
  - Two facilities received authorization to transfer waste to out-of-state facilities.

- Carroll County received permission to temporarily alter the hours when its Northern Landfill would accept yard trim, effective until June 30, 2020.
  - Howard County received approval for two additional cover materials in the event its contract with Waste Management was disrupted and use of an alternative landfill was necessary.
  - A business received permission to move forward with underground-tank removal work that MDE staff would ordinarily observe in person. MDE requested detailed information from them both prior and after the work to ensure that all appropriate steps were taken.
  - The Washington County Highway Department received permission to keep its four fuel sites open for business operating as unattended facilities. MDE granted the county's request provided that the facilities were inspected at least once every 24-hour period and other conditions were met.
  - Aberdeen Proving Ground requested a temporary reduction in operating hours of a waste facility.
  - Several businesses received a delay in the requirement to comply with a newly-legislated styrofoam ban.
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- 10 requests were for permission to submit or manage documents electronically rather than on paper per usual practice. All were granted.