



REGION 3

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

February 17, 2026

Mr. Colby Sowerby
Division Chief, Accreditation & Oversight
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Land and Materials Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Re: FY2025 End-of-Year Grant Review Report
Lead 404G and Enforcement Grant Number BG-97302708

Dear Mr. Sowerby:

On December 10, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III held its fiscal year 2025 (FY25) End-of-Year Review of Maryland Department of the Environment's performance of its Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Lead Program 404(g) and Enforcement Grants for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

MDE has continued to operate an efficient certification and accreditation program, which makes available a pool of trained and licensed abatement professionals working in the field, as well as training providers qualified to offer training to current and prospective lead abatement professionals. MDE's accreditation team members created a test bank for the third-party accredited course and updated the inspector technician exam. EPA supports MDE's goal to expand training opportunities in the state, including developing a toolkit for community colleges to become training providers. EPA recommends MDE reaches out to DE DHS, as they are working on a similar effort.

MDE continues to operate an active and productive inspection program. MDE's inspectors perform investigations with cases of elevated blood lead levels over the CDC reference value of 3.5 ug/dL and 5.0 ug/dL, making their inspection program one of the most robust in the country. MDE's program has concerns about EPA's dust lead consideration rulemaking and the impacts of the substantially reduced Reportable Levels and Action Levels. EPA will work with MDE during the implementation of the new values and potential impacts to the regulated community in the state.

MDE's enforcement team are wrapping up two high-profile cases: the enforcement against Rodney Barkley (Green Environmental) for falsifying over 1,400 lead-free certificates mostly in Baltimore City; and the Skyline Tower Painting that contaminated lead-paint chips from power-washing a television tower on Baltimore's TV Hill. EPA commends MDE's enforcement team for their vigilance and hard work to protect the state from lead exposure and prevention of lead poisoning.

MDE's lead team continued impactful outreach initiatives throughout FY25, including hosting events and presentations throughout the state for National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. MDE expressed interest in providing inspectors and contractors with more information on compliance with Maryland's Lead Law, and hope to expand to property owner forums, rental agencies at local levels, and more. MDE's Inspector Forum in May 2025 proved to be very successful with over 156 attendees, and the team plans to do two more of these within FY26. EPA encourages MDE to continue documenting compliance assistance, outreach and partnership activities in their quarterly progress reports.

Thank you and your staff for your continued efforts in implementing the lead program in Maryland and I look forward to our ongoing collaboration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mrs. Courtenay Hoernemann, Section Chief of the Chemicals Safety Section, at (215) 814-2216 or Hoernemann.courtenay@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

DAVID CAMPBELL

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David Campbell, Director
Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division

cc: Fred Banks (MDE)
Kevin Stanley (MDE)