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The Virginia Environmental Endowment

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Guidelines established by the Endowment indicate that the fund will be used "to help citizens, industry, and government take constructive action to improve the quality of Virginia's environment." Grants and loans are to be made in conformity with this goal; however, funds of the Endowment cannot be used for purposes which would result in the discharge of Allied Chemical's civil liability. The Endowment is particularly interested in funding projects which deal with environmental law, ecological research, and the effect of toxic substances on human health, water and air quality. Because of the limited funds available, the Endowment favors proposals that have statewide significance, a direct benefit to Virginians, and the potential for support from government or private resources.

To apply for assistance from the Virginia Environmental Endowment, the applicant should send a letter describing the project for which support is desired. This letter should include information explaining why the project is needed and what its expected results will be. It is also important for the applicant to present the qualifications which his organization and members have for administering the project. A schedule for implementation of the project, with its total cost and the amount of funding requested from the Endowment, and any funds expected from other organizations, should be included in the letter.

THE VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL ENDOWMENT

On February 1, 1977, a \$13.2 million criminal fine to be levied against the Allied Chemical Corporation for their role in polluting the James River with Kepone and other toxic substances was reduced to \$5.2 million by United States District Judge Robert Mehridge. The reduction was the result of an agreement whereby Allied Chemical consented to set aside \$8 million for an environmental endowment fund to be used for the benefit of the citizens of Virginia. A private, non-stock corporation, the Virginia Environmental Endowment, was established to administer the fund. The corporation is governed by a seven-member board of directors.

The directors of the Endowment meet in March, June, September, and December. Any proposals submitted should be completed prior to January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15, to allow ample time for review before the quarterly meetings. Letters outlining proposals should be sent to:

Mr. Gerald P. McCarthy
Executive Director
Virginia Environmental Endowment
700 Building, Suite 1520
P. O. Box 790
Richmond, Virginia 23206