



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

MAY 9 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to inform you of the newly established online reporting tool for burials at sea. As you may be aware, EPA has issued a general permit under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) to authorize the burial of non-cremated and cremated human remains at sea. The MPRSA authorizes the transportation and burial at sea of human remains in ocean waters pursuant to conditions published in the Federal Regulations at 40 CFR 229.1. The MPRSA general permit for burial at sea requires that EPA be notified of a burial at sea within 30 days following the event. All burials at sea conducted under the MPRSA General Permit must be reported to the EPA Region from which the vessel carrying the remains departed.

To facilitate reporting, EPA has developed the online Burial at Sea Reporting Tool which replaces the PDF forms previously used by permittees to report burials at sea to EPA. The Burial at Sea Reporting Tool is available for use as of May 17, 2019, and it can be accessed from the EPA Burial at Sea webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/burial-sea>).

The Burial at Sea Reporting Tool provides two options for submitting an online report of a burial at sea: you may complete the simple online form and submit a report as a "guest", or you may create an online account to submit reports. "Guest" users may submit reports of one or more burials using the Reporting Tool. This option is expected to be used primarily by a one-time user, e.g., individuals that conduct a single burial at sea. An account is anticipated to be most useful for entities that conduct multiple burials at sea, because the account saves basic contact information for registered users, eliminating the need to re-enter contact information (if unchanged) for future reports, and allows the user to view the report submission history. The Reporting Tool also includes the option of using a spreadsheet to report multiple burials at sea. This spreadsheet may be downloaded from the Reporting Tool, and, once burial at sea information is added, may be uploaded into the Reporting Tool.

For additional information about the Burial at Sea Reporting Tool and the MPRSA general permit, and to identify Regional EPA contacts for burial at sea, please visit EPA's Burial at Sea webpage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell L. Kaiser for".

Russell L. Kaiser, Chief

Freshwater and Marine Regulatory Branch

 **EPA**
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Environmental Protection
Agency
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