



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

OCT 18 2006

OFFICE OF  
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to announce that the US Environmental Protection Agency is developing a Stewardship Program for nanoscale chemical substances (“nanoscale materials”) to complement and support our new and existing chemicals programs under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). As the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, I would like to personally invite your organization to actively participate in a number of upcoming opportunities to provide input on specific aspects and considerations for an approach to nanoscale materials under TSCA, including development of a Stewardship Program.

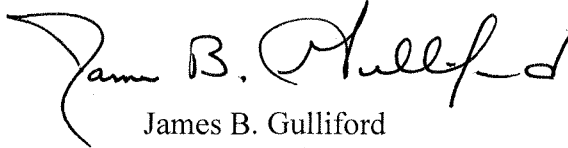
This is part of the Agency’s commitment to involve a wide range of stakeholders and the public in the development of this program which has included, over the last year or so, public discussions and input from the EPA’s National Pollution Prevention and Toxics Advisory Committee. During 2006, my office has continued to develop its approach for addressing new and existing chemical nanoscale materials under our TSCA program, considering both voluntary and regulatory elements. Our goal is to implement TSCA in a way that enables responsible development of nanotechnology and realizes its potential environmental benefits, while applying sound science to assess and, where appropriate, manage potential risks to human health and the environment presented by nanoscale materials. The development of a stewardship program for nanoscale materials will help EPA meet this goal by generating information and providing a sound, scientific basis for risk assessment and risk management.

Over the coming months, we will be announcing a variety of opportunities for public input regarding our program to address nanoscale materials including: 1) public scientific peer consultations to discuss risk management practices and characterization for nanoscale materials; 2) an overall framework document describing the TSCA program for nanoscale materials; 3) a document on distinguishing the TSCA Inventory status of “new” versus “existing” chemical nanoscale materials; 4) a concept paper describing EPA’s thinking for the Stewardship Program, as well as an Information Collection Request to collect data under the Stewardship Program; 5) workshops examining the pollution prevention opportunities for nanoscale materials; and 6) a public meeting to discuss these documents and program elements.

As part of this process, we are creating an e-mail distribution list so that we can notify interested stakeholders of all opportunities for public involvement. If you are interested in signing up to receive these e-mail notifications, please subscribe to our E-mail notification list by going directly to this link. We will also provide notification of these opportunities on our website at [www.epa.gov/oppt/nano](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/nano), by letter, or Federal Register Notice, as appropriate.

I look forward to working collaboratively with you and other interested stakeholders to more fully develop our vision and program for nanoscale materials. If you have any questions or would like additional information on our program, please contact Jim Alwood in the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxic's Chemical Control Division, at 202-564-8974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Gulliford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

James B. Gulliford  
Assistant Administrator