WPSC
Wood Preservative Science Council

October 5, 2005

Mr. Thomas Miller, Designated Federal Officer
Science Advisory Board Staff Office (1400F)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: SAB Arsenic Review Panel
Additional Information for Consideration: EPA Study in Fallon, Nevada Shows No Adverse Effects Associated with Arsenic at Up to 100 ppb in Drinking Water

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Wood Preservative Science Council (WPSC) wants to make the Panel aware of a recent EPA announcement relative to the health effects of inorganic arsenic. On September 21, 2005, the U.S. EPA announced the results of their own study of the health effects of inorganic arsenic. While the full study is not yet available to the public, we believe that these data are of critical importance to Panel in their response to the EPA charges. All that currently is available publicly is the attached Associated Press wire release. The conclusion reached by EPA is that **there were no adverse health effects associated with arsenic following long-term consumption of drinking water containing up to 100 ppb of arsenic in Fallon, Nevada**.

Clearly, EPA was aware of the results of this study at the time the Panel met, yet they chose not to divulge the imminent release or the general conclusions to be drawn. Since these results appear to contradict the interpretation of data presented by EPA and in fact supports alternative interpretations, we believe that the Panel may wish to investigate this further. It appears to us that the Panel would not want to be put into a position of making conclusions and recommendations that EPA soon would contradict upon release of the full report.

The WPSC believes that the best available science should be available to and considered by the Panel in its deliberations. Certainly, these data are expected to be of a quality which would demand consideration and are likely to be pivotal in developing appropriate conclusions and recommendations relative to the health risks of inorganic arsenic.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hale
Executive Director
WPSC

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