



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 1 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Deborah L. Swackhamer
Chair
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Swackhamer:

Thank you for the December 18, 2008, letter to the Agency providing the Science Advisory Board Ecological Processes and Effects Committee's advisory report on the on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency White Paper titled *Aquatic Life Criteria for Contaminants of Emerging Concern*. I appreciate your efforts to review and consult with the EPA Office of Water to address the technical issues and challenges in applying the *1985 Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses* to contaminants of emerging concern. We are pleased to learn that the SAB agrees with OW and the Office of Research and Development on how to address the specific technical issues concerning derivation of aquatic life criteria for CECs that may have endocrine disrupting characteristics.

We also recognize and appreciate your comments on a number of broader issues related to direct and indirect food-web impacts, multiple lines of evidence, and mammalian pharmacology. EPA is currently in the process of revising the Guidelines to address these and other issues. This larger review effort will include bolstering consideration of mode of action in the criteria development process, as well as an assessment of potential multiple modes of action for individual CECs.

EPA is currently incorporating the relevant SAB comments and recommendations into a planned technical support document on deriving aquatic life criteria for CECs to be released for public comment in 2009. If you would like to discuss any of these issues further, please feel free to contact Ephraim King, Director of the EPA Office of Science and Technology at (202) 566-0430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson".

Lisa P. Jackson



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

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THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Judith L. Meyer
Chair, Ecological Processes and Effects Committee
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Meyer:

Thank you for the December 18, 2008, letter to the Agency providing the Science Advisory Board Ecological Processes and Effects Committee's advisory report on the on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency White Paper titled *Aquatic Life Criteria for Contaminants of Emerging Concern*. I appreciate your efforts to review and consult with the EPA Office of Water to address the technical issues and challenges in applying the 1985 *Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses* to contaminants of emerging concern. We are pleased to learn that the SAB agrees with OW and the Office of Research and Development on how to address the specific technical issues concerning derivation of aquatic life criteria for CECs that may have endocrine disrupting characteristics.

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