



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 25 2003

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Dr. George Seaver
19 Mystery Lane
Cataumet, MA 02534

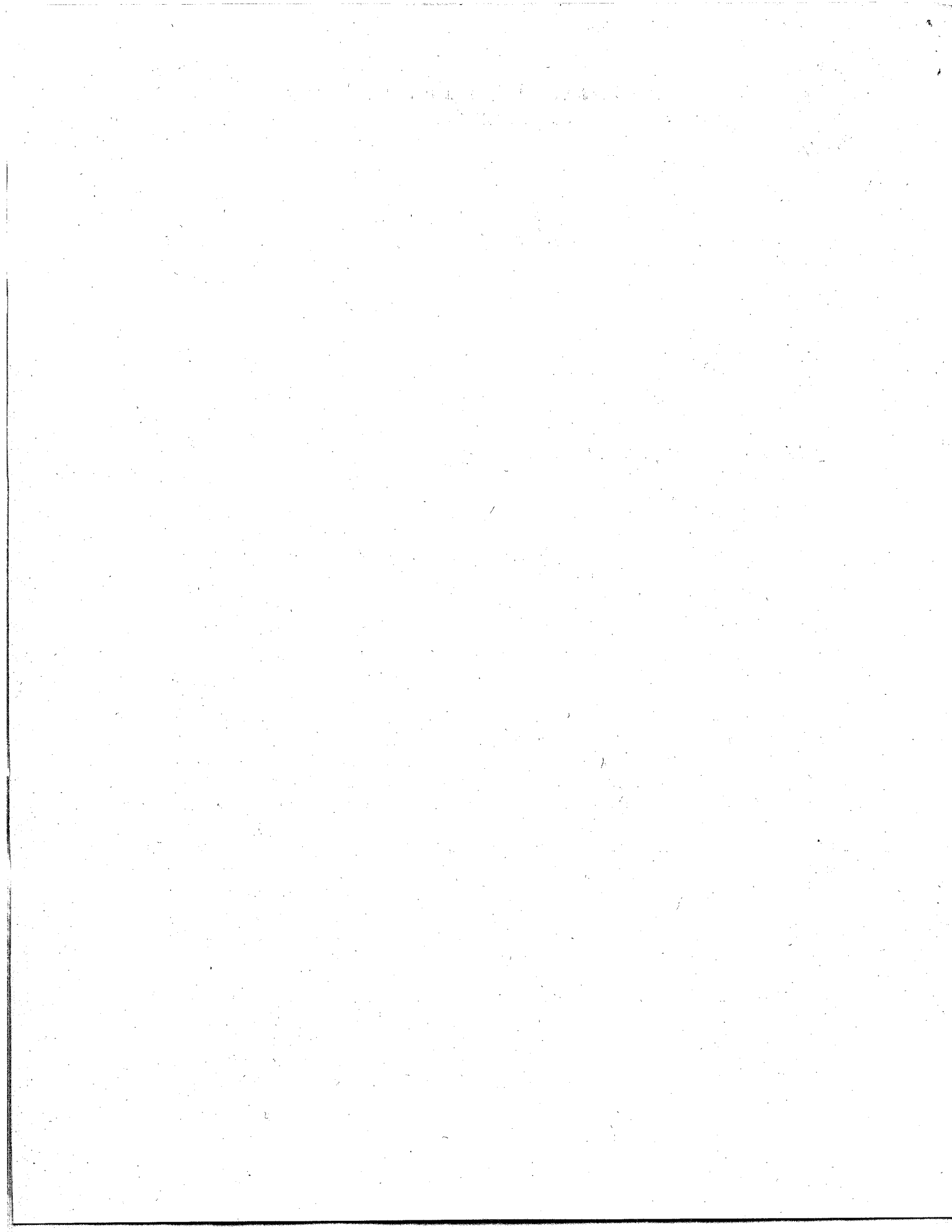
RE: Response to Request for Correction (RFC) regarding statements concerning perchlorate pursuant to United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Information Quality Guidelines (IQG RFC #9199)

Dear Dr. Seaver:

This is in response to your request for correction dated March 14, 2003 raising concerns about an alleged statement made on more than one occasion by an EPA official regarding the carcinogenicity of perchlorate. Following a thorough review, we believe the *Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity, of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA Information Quality Guidelines) are not applicable to your request.

The EPA Information Quality Guidelines apply to information the Agency disseminates to the public that is prepared by the Agency to support or represent an EPA viewpoint or to formulate or support a regulation, guidance or other Agency decision or position. EPA has not yet completed its review of the health effects of perchlorate exposure to humans. Until such time as the EPA perchlorate assessment is complete, the Agency has no official position with regard to the characterization of the carcinogenic hazard. As your letter states, Mr. James Woolford, Director of the Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office, correctly stated in an email response to you on February 28, 2003, that the EPA has made no determination or statement on this matter. With respect to EPA's dissemination of documents regarding perchlorate health effects, EPA has made a draft toxicological review available on the EPA web site at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea>, for the purpose of obtaining public comment. Please note that this document is in draft form and does not represent a final Agency position.

You noted in your request two meetings at which an EPA official may have stated that EPA considers perchlorate to be a carcinogen. EPA has no record of any statements that may have been made by EPA staff at the meeting held by the Bourne Water District (BWD) (in March 2002, according to your statement). You also assert that an EPA official made similar statements at an October 2002 meeting of the MMR Senior Management Board (SMB). EPA notes that

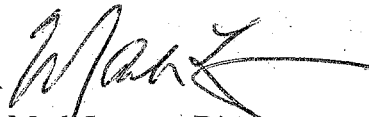


there was no meeting of the SMB in October 2002. In our view, these meetings were general meetings which included discussions on various topics and there were no official statements made regarding the Agency's position on perchlorate and any potential impacts on human health. Under the EPA Information Quality Guidelines, we would consider such discussions to be informal communications that EPA did not disseminate to the public beyond their original context. They would not be information disseminated by EPA to represent an Agency viewpoint, decision or position.

I am aware that, in a letter dated January 31, 2003, to Regional Administrator Robert Varney, you asked for a discussion of the evidence supporting the Agency's evaluation of the potential carcinogenicity of perchlorate. The response to your request is undergoing review and will be forwarded to you from the Office of Research and Development in the near future.

If you are dissatisfied with EPA's decision that the information described in your request is not covered by the EPA Information Quality Guidelines, you may submit a Request for Reconsideration (RFR). EPA recommends that this request be submitted within 90 days of the date on this letter. To do so, send a written request to the EPA Agency's Information Quality Guidelines Processing Staff via mail (Information Quality Guidelines Staff, Mail Code 28220T, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W, Washington, D.C., 20460), electronic mail (quality.guidelines@epa.gov) or fax (202 566-0255). The RFR should reference the request number assigned to the original request for correction (identified in the heading of this response). Additional information that should be included in the request is listed on the EPA Information Quality Guidelines web site (<http://www.epa.gov/oei/qualityguidelines>).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Luttner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Luttner, Director
Office of Information Collection

