



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

AUG 21 2007

Harry Gregori, Jr.
Vice President
Environmental Solutions, Inc.
10625 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, VA 23238

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Dear Mr. Gregori:

I am writing today to share with you the status of the National Pollution Prevention and Toxics Advisory Committee (NPPTAC). This Committee was used to effectively seek stakeholder input and advice on a number of critical issue areas, including pollution prevention, nanotechnology, lead, and existing chemicals. While the establishment of the Committee happened before my time in OPPTS, I share Charlie Auer and OPPT's recognition of the importance of stakeholder input and commitment to ensuring an open and transparent process. I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment while serving on NPPTAC. Your successful efforts provided a forum for public discussion and the development of independent advice to EPA, which resulted in nine recommendations and other informal input which were both useful to and valued by the Agency.

The work of the Committee has directly impacted a number of our efforts, including the Nano Materials Stewardship Program (NMSP) documents that we recently released for stakeholder and public comment and our work on developing a scheme for assessing and characterizing the hazards and risks of High Production Volume (HPV) chemicals. In fact, we plan to make the first set of HPV Hazard Characterizations publicly available in the next week or so. We will notify you when they are posted.

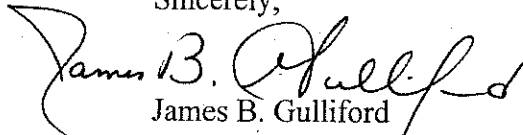
I also want to make sure that you are aware that President Bush, along with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, included Regional Chemical Cooperation as a priority outcome from their Security and Prosperity Partnership "Leaders" meeting in Montebello, Canada on August 20-21, 2007. This North America Chemical Cooperation program (copy attached) will build on the fruits of both the U.S. HPV work and the Canadian work on chemical categorization and its Chemical Management Program, and open the door to closer cooperation between chemical authorities in all three countries. For its part, the US is adopting a 2012 goal to complete initial risk assessments and initiate action, as needed, on the roughly 9,000 existing chemicals produced at greater than 25,000 lbs/year. Our Canadian and Mexican colleagues also adopted 2012 goals. The three countries agreed to cooperate in the assessment and management of chemicals in North America and also agreed to a series of long-term 2020 goals. This will be a significant effort for us and our colleagues in Canada and Mexico but I am confident that we are up to the challenge. Additional information on this effort can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/chemrtk/index.htm>.

As you are aware, last October three members resigned from the NPPTAC. Since that time and after careful consideration and much internal discussion regarding the options for obtaining stakeholder input on issues, I have determined to utilize a range of approaches to obtain stakeholder input, formal and informal, instead of reconstituting the NPPTAC.

These approaches will include public review and comment on formal Agency actions and issue-specific individual stakeholder consultations, such as the NMSP Peer Consultations and Public Meetings (Federal Register Notice EPA-HQ-OPPT-2004-0122) and the series of public meetings we are convening on Commodity Mercury (Federal Register Notice EPA-HQ-OPPT-2007-0148), which are bringing together individuals with diverse and balanced views to provide the government with individual input on options for managing non-federal supplies of mercury. We plan to use this issue-specific approach to seek informal individual stakeholder input on the Agency's plans for achieving our 2012 goal called for under the Chemical Cooperation framework outlined above. We will also utilize conferences and meetings for communicating with stakeholders, such as the two HPV Data Use conferences we conducted in the past year. We are considering other options as well.

Again, on behalf of OPPTS, I sincerely thank you for your efforts and appreciate the time and energy that you provided in helping us move our chemical and pollution prevention work forward. We remain committed to active stakeholder involvement and building on your good work. I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

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

James B. Gulliford
Assistant Administrator

Attachment

cc: C. Auer
W. Cleland-Hamnett