



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

FEB 8 2005

Dr. Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D., Chair
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Cal/EPA
1515 Clay St. 16th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for your letter of June 8, 2004, regarding the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) activities related to fish consumption advisories. In your letter, you express your appreciation for the March 2004 Joint Federal Advisory for Mercury in Fish targeting Women Who Might Become Pregnant, Women Who Are Pregnant, Nursing Mothers, and Young Children. You also provide a recommendation that the two agencies continue working together to evaluate the occurrence and potential health risks associated with other environmental contaminants, such as PCBs, in fish.

I apologize for the delay in sending a formal response. I understand, however, that my staff have discussed with Liz Blackburn of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee the fact that work is underway between EPA and FDA to develop a partnership agreement that would establish a framework for continuing collaborative work between the two agencies on issues related to seafood and contaminants. I met with Dr. Lester Crawford, the FDA Acting Commissioner, personally in the summer of 2004 and we agreed that such a framework would be beneficial for both agencies.

I am optimistic that we will be able to establish this framework for collaboration. I will make sure that the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee continues to be advised of our progress.

Thank you for your interest in this important environmental health issue. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Denise Keehner, Director of the Standards and Health Protection Division, at 202-566-0400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. H. Grumbles", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin H. Grumbles
Assistant Administrator