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ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY

OCT. 01 2001

Honorable Linda J. Fisher
Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Fisher:

I ask your support for the early release of the external review draft of the perchlorate toxicological review and risk characterization report and the convening of an external peer review as soon as possible. Quick release of the information is needed so that credible science can support credible decision and policy making by states and EPA regions on perchlorate standards.

As you may be aware, an external peer review panel in March 1997, followed by an EPA external peer review in February 1999, identified additional data to assess the potential risk posed by perchlorate. The Department of Defense (DoD) worked closely with EPA to generate and provide EPA the information to fill the "data gaps" in an accelerated timeframe. The DoD, like EPA, throughout this process has held to having credible science support credible regulatory decision and policy making. Unfortunately, without EPA releasing the additional data and setting a firm date for an external peer review, states and EPA regions are establishing health and cleanup standards without the benefit of the additional toxicological information. We are concerned that recent independent actions by EPA Regions I and IX, as well as proposed action by California, will result in a perchlorate cleanup standard being established that is not supported by sound science. This will lead to expenditure of resources beyond what is needed to address a valid health risk.

I urge EPA to release quickly the additional perchlorate toxicological data to enable states and others to establish regulatory standards based on sound science.

Please feel free to have your staff directly contact my staff point of contact, Mr. Shah A. Choudhury at (703) 697-7475, or Lieutenant Colonel Dan Rogers at (501) 987-8162, on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Ray

Raymond F. DuBois, Jr.
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment)

cc:
Mr. John Graham, OMB/Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs
Mr. Henry L. Longest II, EPA/Office of Research and Development
Dr. William H. Farland, EPA/Office of Research and Development
Mr. Ray Fatz, Army
Mr. Thomas Ledvina, Navy
Mr. Paul Yaroschak, Navy
Mr. Terry Yonkers, Air Force