



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

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OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Pamela Shubat, Ph.D.
Chair
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Minnesota Department of Health
625 N. Robert Street
St Paul, MN 55155-2538

Dear Dr. Shubat:

Thank you for your October 21, 2010, letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa P. Jackson providing your recommendations of considerations for staff discussions of the National Research Council (NRC) report on *Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment*. Administrator Jackson has requested that I reply to your letter.

Since these discussions were coordinated through the Risk Assessment Forum (RAF), administered through the Office of the Science Advisor, and not solely an activity within the Office of Research and Development, I have worked with my colleagues in EPA's Office of the Science Advisor and the Chair of the Risk Assessment Forum, to develop the response to your inquiry about these issues.

The Agency recently held the Human Health Risk Assessment Colloquium to have focused discussions on several NRC reports and their recommendations (*i.e., Science and Decisions, Phthalates and Cumulative Risk Assessment, Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century*), and Administrator Jackson's priorities of Children's Health and Environmental Justice. The Colloquium brought together over 120 risk assessors from across the Agency's Regions and Offices to consider the NRC recommendations. Importantly, the Risk Assessment Forum also coordinated Colloquium input from senior Agency managers and representatives from Office of Children's Health Protection and Office of Environmental Justice. As you requested, your letter of recommendations on *Science and Decisions* and Children's Health issues was shared with the Colloquium participants. The Daston et al. 2004 journal article entitled, "A framework for assessing risks to children from exposure to environmental agents" you referred to in your letter was also made available to the participants. Based on Colloquium discussions, a draft Action Plan for Advancing Human Health Risk Assessment is being developed and refined by the Risk Assessment Forum and Colloquium co-chairs for the Agency Science Advisor and the Science and Technology Policy Council to consider. The plan outlines proposed activities for the short, intermediate and longer term, with respect to the NRC recommendations and the Administrator's

priorities. Furthermore, Dr. Edward V. Ohanian, Chair of RAF, has been invited to discuss "RAF's Risk Assessment Colloquium and Children's Health" at the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee meeting in Washington, DC on December 2, 2010".

Again, thank you very much for your letter and for your continued interest in the Agency's activities related to NRC report on *Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment* which is of great concern to EPA, since it relates to the health of the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

Rebecca Clark
Acting Director

cc: Paul Anastas
Peter Grevatt
Kathryn Gallagher
Edward Ohanian