



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

**AUG 16 2019**

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Timothy Whitehouse  
Executive Director  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)  
962 Wayne Avenue, Suite 610  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Whitehouse:

I am writing to confirm that on August 7, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received the petition from your organization, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) pursuant to section 21 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The petition requests that EPA initiate rulemaking under TSCA section 6(a) prohibiting oil refineries from using hydrofluoric acid in their manufacturing processes and for oil refineries to phase out the use of hydrofluoric acid within two years.

Section 21 of TSCA provides that the Administrator shall either grant or deny a petition within 90-days after the date of filing (August 7, 2019, for your petition). Section 21 further provides that, if the Administrator grants the petition, the Administrator shall promptly commence an appropriate proceeding and that, if the administrator denies the petition, the Administrator shall publish the reasons for such a denial in the Federal Register. Your petition is under review by the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), which is responsible for programs under TSCA.

If you have any questions relating to the petition, please contact Robert Courtnage of my staff by telephone at (202) 566-1081 or by email at [courtnage.robert@epa.gov](mailto:courtnage.robert@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Hartman".

Mark A. Hartman  
Deputy Director for Management  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics