



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

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THE ADMINISTRATOR

Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D.  
Chair, Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC)  
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Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for your letter regarding the ten-year anniversary of Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks (EO 13045). CHPAC has been an important source of advice to EPA over the years, and I appreciate your thoughtful input on ways to further advance children's health protection.

EPA takes enormous pride in our considerable efforts to protect children from environmental health threats. Please be assured that the Agency remains committed to upholding the principles of EO 13045.

While I appreciate your strong commitment to the principles of EO 13045 and the Agency's work to implement those principles, I disagree with the assertions in your letter that EPA has not maintained its focus on children's issues and has not capitalized on the opportunity to tackle a number of significant existing and emerging environmental challenges. Many of our highest priority initiatives and regulatory actions undertaken since I became Administrator have been primarily focused on reducing risks to children's health. For example, the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) will reduce the levels of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> moving across borders in 28 eastern states. When fully implemented, CAIR will reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in these states by over 70 percent and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by over 60 percent from 2003 levels. We estimate that CAIR will result in substantial health improvements for children from reduced respiratory illness and fewer asthma attacks, and substantial reductions in missed schools days due to illness.

In addition, the Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) will build on CAIR to significantly reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants – the largest remaining sources of mercury emissions in the country. When fully implemented, CAMR and CAIR will reduce utility emissions of mercury from 48 tons a year to 15 tons, a reduction of nearly 70 percent that will help protect children's neurobehavioral development.

The Clean Air Non-Road Diesel Rule establishes new diesel engine and diesel fuel standards that will greatly reduce particulate matter, SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from non-road engines. We estimate particulate matter reductions of 95 percent, nitrogen oxides reductions of 90 percent, and the virtual elimination of sulfur oxides from non-road engines meeting the new standards.

Upcoming regulatory activities will place a significant emphasis on children's environmental health, including review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone rule and new steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars. Plus, recently promulgated rules are squarely aimed at strengthening children's health protection. For example, on June 5, EPA proposed some simple but effective standards that can reduce children's potential exposure to dangerous levels of lead in places such as their homes, schools, and daycare centers. Among other standards, the proposed action would require renovators to be trained in lead-safe work practices, follow these practices during renovations, and distribute lead hazard information to parents, guardians, and owners and operators of buildings with child-operated facilities. It would also require training for dust sampling technicians; certification for renovators, dust sampling technicians, and renovation firms; and accreditation for providers of renovator training.

Another facet of our comprehensive commitment to children's health protection is our non-regulatory programs. EPA has played a key role in establishing programs across the nation that improve children's environments. For example, just last month, EPA awarded Duke University with a multi-million-dollar grant for a children's health research center to study how social, environmental, and genetic factors contribute to premature births and low birth weight. (I regret that you were not able to join me in Durham for this event; I am enclosing some materials that describe this impressive new research center.)

EPA has played an important part in advancing the worldwide phase-out of lead in gasoline, a goal that has very nearly been achieved. In December 2006, EPA published in the *Federal Register* draft papers evaluating the scientific and technical information in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead. We made these studies available for public comment so that adequate input from all stakeholders is considered before setting standards that so critically impact childhood development.

EPA has created a number of outreach programs to help reach our goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the United States as a major public health concern by the year 2010. These programs include a partnership with the National Head Start Association to educate parents of young children about lead hazards and a lead poisoning prevention outreach kit that state and local partners can use when working with the media.

In January of 2006, EPA invited eight fluoropolymer and telomer manufacturers to participate in a global stewardship program on PFOA and related chemicals. As you well know, PFOA is persistent in the environment and has been detected in low levels in wildlife and humans; animal studies have indicated developmental and other effects of

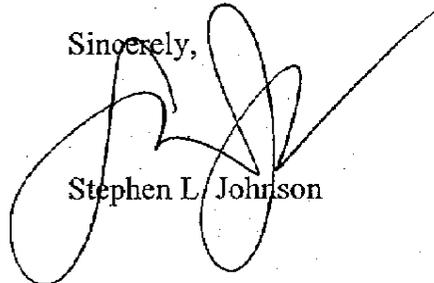
concern. Participating manufacturers are working toward reducing PFOA from emissions and product content by 95 percent no later than 2010, and eliminating PFOA from emissions and product content no later than 2015.

Our many other activities focused on children's health are summarized in EPA's *Children's Environmental Health: 2006 Report* (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oehp/ochpweb.nsf/content/chm.htm>).

Though EPA has taken tremendous steps to advance EO 13045, I agree with you that its tenth anniversary is an appropriate time to review the Agency's children's health activities. To that end, I am directing the Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education (OCHPEE) to work collaboratively with program offices across the Agency, as well as with CHPAC, to review the recommendations in your letter.

I know that we are scheduled to meet in the near future to discuss the soon-to-be proposed NAAQS for ozone rulemaking. I look forward to that discussion. Again, thank you for your expert advice and your commitment to children's health issues. I assure you that protecting children's health remains a priority for EPA, and I look forward to a continuing dialogue about health protection challenges and opportunities.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Johnson

Enclosure

*Thanks again  
for your good  
work - look forward  
to seeing you soon!  
JLH*