



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

MAY 19 2010

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Pamela Shubat
Chairwoman, Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Environmental Health Division
Minnesota Department of Health
625 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-2538

Dear Dr. Shubat:

Thank you for your letter transmitting the report of the School Siting Task Group and the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee's recommendations on our draft school-siting guidelines. I offer my sincere thanks to all task group members and to you for leading this work.

Healthy indoor and outdoor school environments are an essential component of ensuring that children can have a successful learning experience. As you know, the decisions on locating new schools are complex and have long-term implications for children, families and communities.

In developing voluntary school-siting guidelines, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seeks to help communities understand and carefully consider critical environmental issues as well as provide key information and tools to assist local officials in making the best possible school-siting decisions.

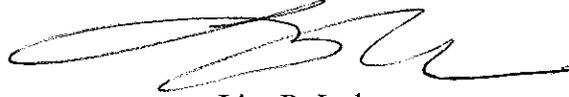
Among its recommendations, the School Siting Task Group report offers important considerations for engaging the public in the siting process and for identifying fundamental steps for conducting a thorough review of environmental issues, particularly potential contamination of prospective school sites and nearby sources of contaminants.

Also, as you have indicated, many communities and states lack the capacity to perform a rigorous environmental review, and I appreciate the task group's recommendations for improvement in this critical area. We must pay special attention to such issues in communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution.

Please know that we will carefully consider all of your recommendations as we proceed with developing draft guidelines for public review and comment. We will keep you informed of our progress.

In the meantime, I again offer my thanks to you and the task group for sharing our commitment to improving children's health protection. Your work will go a long way toward enabling the EPA to produce guidelines that will serve as a solid foundation for sound school-siting decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa P. Jackson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lisa P. Jackson

cc: Mr. Henry Falk
Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Health and ATSDR,
Centers for Disease Control

Mr. Kevin Jennings
Assistant Deputy Secretary, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools
U.S. Department of Education

Mr. Donald Yu, Senior Counselor, Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Education