



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 6 2006

Mr. Jim Hale
Wood Preservative Science Council
P.O. Box 293
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

OFFICE OF
WATER

RE: Request for Correction –Documents Submitted to the Science Advisory Board
(Inorganic Arsenic, RFC 05007)

Dear Mr. Hale:

Thank you for your request for correction dated September 2, 2005 under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency* (“Guidelines”). Two documents are cited in your request: *Toxicological Review of Inorganic Arsenic in Support of Summary Information on the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)* (July 2005) (the IRIS document), and *Issue Paper: Inorganic Arsenic Cancer Slope Factor* (July 23, 2005) (Issue Paper). You request that both documents be thoroughly peer-reviewed and in the interim that the Agency make clear that both documents are drafts and do not represent Agency position.

As stated on the EPA Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/sab/>), the draft documents cited in your request are undergoing peer review by the Science Advisory Board (SAB), and do not represent final Agency policy or decisions, therefore, are not subject to correction under the EPA IQGs. As your RFC states, the IRIS document does include such a disclaimer, but the Issue Paper does not. A disclaimer has been added to the Issue Paper that states the document is draft and does not represent EPA’s final policy or decisions.

The SAB provides independent advice and peer review on the scientific and technical soundness of environmental work products produced by the Agency. The SAB review considers the quality and transparency criteria incorporated into the Agency’s Peer Review Policy. The EPA IQGs endorse peer review as a mechanism to ensure and maximize quality. The results of the SAB’s review will be incorporated into the final document. The SAB draft report of the on-going review of inorganic arsenic is available at http://epa.gov/sab/pdf/arsenic_12-27-2005_dft_for_jan-24-2006.pdf

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. H. Grumbles".

Benjamin H. Grumbles
Assistant Administrator