



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

MAR 20 2008

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Melanie A. Marty
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for writing and for providing me with the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee's comments on the draft "Framework for Determining a Mutagenic Mode of Action (MOA) for Carcinogenicity." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency appreciates the Committee's input and will carefully evaluate your comments.

The draft Framework was developed by senior scientists from across EPA, under the auspices of the Agency's Risk Assessment Forum, to provide guidance on how to determine whether a chemical has a mutagenic mode of action for carcinogenicity. With the approval of the EPA Science Policy Council, the draft Framework document was released for a 60-day public comment period on September 27, 2007. At the request of the EPA Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education, the comment period was extended an additional 30 days to ensure ample opportunity for public input.

In addition to soliciting public comment, an external scientific peer review panel composed of independent experts will comment on the scientific validity of the document. A *Federal Register* notice on February 28, 2008, announced a public meeting of the External Peer Review Panel, to be held on April 4, 2008. This meeting will include an opportunity for public comment. Also, copies of all submitted public comments will be shared with the external peer review panel.

EPA will carefully consider your comments, as well as other public comments and comments from the peer review panel, in finalizing its Framework for Determining a Mutagenic Mode of Action for Carcinogenicity.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Lee Hofmann in EPA's Office of the Science Advisor at (202) 564-6811.

Sincerely,


Stephen L. Johnson