



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

JUL 28 2006

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D.
Chair, Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Cal/EPA, Office of Environmental Health
Hazard Assessment
1515 Clay Street, 16th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for writing to me on behalf of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program.

As you know, the VCCEP was established to ensure that adequate data exists to help the public understand the potential health risks to children associated with certain chemical exposures. In late 2000, EPA launched a pilot program that would allow the Agency to develop and test a process that could be evaluated for its effectiveness in reaching the program's goals. You have identified a number of areas where you believe those goals have not been met. Perhaps most importantly, you recommend that we expedite the publication of a *Federal Register* notice announcing the public stakeholder evaluation of the VCCEP pilot.

We, too, believe that this public evaluation is key to developing an effective program and will be publishing a *Federal Register* notice later this summer. The notice will announce a formal evaluation of the VCCEP pilot program and will seek broad stakeholder views and comments like those you have provided. In addition, if there is sufficient interest, the Agency may hold one or more public meetings on the issue.

Again, we appreciate the CHPAC's ongoing interest in this important program, and we will carefully consider the comments that you have provided as we undertake a thorough evaluation of this program in the coming months. We also look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other areas of mutual interest across the Agency. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Johnson".

Stephen L. Johnson

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