



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

August 18, 2003

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**OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD**

Honorable Marianne Lamont Horinko
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Improving Leach Testing of Waste: An EPA Science Advisory
Board Notification of a Consultation

Dear Ms. Horinko:

The Environmental Engineering Committee of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on June 17-18, 2003 to conduct a consultation with staff and managers from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste and the Office of Research and Development, on improvement of waste material leaching evaluation in waste management situations where the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) is not required by regulation. Alternatives to the TCLP are of particular interest to EPA in contaminated site remediation, waste material reuse, and hazardous waste delisting situations.

EPA has initiated internal research, and supported external research, to work toward a more comprehensive assessment framework and set of testing protocols, for evaluation of leaching potential of waste materials under relevant environmental conditions. Important conditions include those found in the course of waste disposal and reuse, as well as contaminated site remediation. This Consultation was designed to consider alternatives to the TCLP that could improve environmental decision-making, when regulatory programs allow such flexibility.

In the consultation, EPA was primarily interested in SAB's thoughts on the scientific strengths and potential applicability of a tiered framework for leaching assessment developed by researchers at Vanderbilt University with partial support from the Office of Solid Waste. EPA also sought SAB's advice on the direction for long-term research, to develop a better fundamental understanding of leaching processes for improved tests and predictive models. Information from the consultation will be used as guidance for the choices EPA will make in developing and implementing a more comprehensive assessment framework and set of testing protocols for use in assessing waste leaching in waste material reuse and site remediation situations.

The SAB has developed the Consultation as a mechanism to advise the Agency on technical issues that should be considered in the development of regulations, guidelines, or technical guidance before the Agency has taken a position. A Consultation is conducted under

the normal requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which include advance notice of the public meeting in the Federal Register.

As is our customary practice, there will be no formal report from the SAB as a result of this Consultation, nor do we expect any formal response from the Agency. The discussions at the meeting along with the meeting minutes constitute the record of this Consultation.

Sincerely,

/Signed/

Dr. David Dzombak, Chair
Leaching Consultation
Environmental Engineering Committee
EPA Science Advisory Board

/Signed/

Dr. Domenico Grasso, Chair
Environmental Engineering Committee
EPA Science Advisory Board

/Signed/

Dr. William Glaze, Chair
EPA Science Advisory Board

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