Dear Administrator Jackson:

We represent communities across the United States where our water and/or our air is impacted by contamination with trichloroethylene (TCE) or similar toxic substances. We have been waiting for a decade for EPA to finalize a Toxicological Review for this cancer-causing chemical.

We understand that EPA scientists at the National Center for Environmental Assessment are prepared to issue such a document, finding—as indicated in the November, 2009 draft—that TCE is carcinogenic to humans by all pathways, and in essence establishing risk factors that would lead to better protection for ourselves, our families, and our neighbors. But we have learned that release of this assessment has been delayed. We urge you to release the TCE Toxicological Review immediately and let the scientists do their work without political interference.

The previous administration pulled EPA’s 2001 TCE toxicity assessment and sent the issue to the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) for re-review. In July 2006 the NAS found that the evidence that TCE causes cancer had increased since 2001 and called upon EPA to finalize the assessment. In December 2009, after EPA released its new draft TCE review, EPA’s Inspector General issued a report on vapor intrusion that called upon the agency to “finalze toxicity values for TCE and PCE [tetrachloroethylene] in the IRIS database.”

- There is no scientific basis for further delay of the TCE review. Peer reviewers were strongly supportive of the draft review.

- More protective TCE standards will not reduce employment. While it is questionable whether any environmental regulation has a net negative impact on jobs, most industries and government agencies have already stopped using TCE. If anything, more protective TCE regulation will create additional jobs in the environmental cleanup sector.

- Thousands of communities need protection from TCE. TCE is one of the most common groundwater contaminants at Superfund sites, military facilities, and other contamination sites. Many of us are exposed to TCE vapors in our homes, schools, and workplaces, and without a new IRIS value we will not receive adequate protection.
TCE exposures pose a widespread and significant risk to public health. Release of the Toxicological Review is overdue. Further delay will needlessly expose even more Americans to this known carcinogen at unsafe levels. We should not allow politics or profits to supersede science. Do not be intimidated by the opponents of environmental protection. **Authorize the release of the final TCE toxicological review now!**

Sincerely,

Kathryn Alcántar, Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy, Oakland, CA

John G. Buddy Andrade, Old Bedford Village Development, Inc., New Bedford, MA

Dvija Michael Bertish, Rosemere Neighborhood Association, Clark County, WA

Chris Borello, Concerned Citizens of Lake Twp./Uniontown IEL Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio

Ros Borodkin, Fair Lawn, NJ

Robert W. Bowcock, Integrated Resource Management, Claremont, CA

Stephen Brittle, Don’t Waste Arizona, Phoenix, AZ

Laura Carson, Southside Village, NC


Ron and Linda Coll, Fair Lawn, NJ

Joan Davidson, Citizens Advisory Board for the Palos Verdes Landfill, Palos Verdes, CA

Ken Deschere, Ithaca South Hill Industrial Pollution, Ithaca, NY

Gabriel Dunsmith, Poughkeepsie, NY

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John E. Gibbons, John E. Gibbons Associates, Antioch, CA
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Marilyn T. Koenitzer, Corvallis Watch, Corvallis, OR

Marion Lambeth, Durham, NC

Peter C. Little, Department of Anthropology, Oregon State University, OR

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Jane Maisel, Bronx Committee for Toxic Free Schools, Bronx, NY

Dave McCoy, Citizen Action New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Carol Meschkow, Concerned Citizens of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Community Inc., Plainview, NY

Kathy Moore, Fair Lawn, NJ

Mary Moore, Lindon Park Neighborhood Association, Phoenix, AZ

Maureen Moriarty, Fair Lawn, NJ

Bob Moss, Barron Park Association Foundation, Palo Alto, CA

Joseph Mugivan, Port Washington, NY

Penny Newman, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Riverside, CA

Dave Ogren, C.T.S. Citizens Monitoring Council, Buncombe County, NC

Laura Olah, Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger, Merrimac, WI
Bruce Oldfield, New York Vapor Intrusion Alliance and Hillcrest Environmental Action Team, Hillcrest, NY

Dot Rice, Asheville, NC

Lenny Siegel, Center for Public Environmental Oversight, Mountain View, CA

Robert Spiegel, Edison Wetlands Association, Edison, NJ

Ralph Stanton, http://guamagentorange.info/tce_contamination, St Joseph, MO

Karen Vilandry, New Bedford, MA

Pete Voggenthaler, Las Vegas, NV

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Laura Ward, FOCUS, Inc., Tallevast, FL

Wanda Washington, FOCUS, Inc., Tallevast, FL

Beth Willis, Frederick Citizens for Bio-lab Safety, Frederick, MD

John Yelenick, Rocky Mountain Arsenal Site Specific Advisory Board, Denver, CO

Kate Zidar, Newtown Creek Alliance, Brooklyn/Queens, NY

cc:
Mathy Stanislaus, U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
Paul Anastas, U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development
Cass Sunstein, Administrator, White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs