

September 26, 2011

Administrator Lisa Jackson  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
**Mail Code:** 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

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 "finalize 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

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

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Ron and Linda Coll, Fair Lawn, NJ

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cc:

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Paul Anastas, U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development

Cass Sunstein, Administrator, White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs