

Submitted by Mr Kevin Bromberg

Suggested Charge Question Modifications _ Modified Language in Bold

General Charge Questions:

1. NRC (2011) indicated that the introductory section of IRIS assessments needed to be expanded to describe more fully the methods of the assessment. NRC stated that they were “not recommending the addition of long descriptions of EPA guidelines to the introduction, but rather clear, concise statements of criteria used to exclude, include, and advance studies for derivation of [toxicity values].” Please comment on whether the new *Preamble* provides a clear and concise, **useful and objective** description of the guidance and methods that EPA uses in developing IRIS assessments. **(modified language in bold)**

B. Literature Search Strategy/Study Selection and Evaluation

The process for identifying and selecting pertinent studies for consideration in developing the assessment is detailed in the *Literature Search Strategy/Study Selection and Evaluation* section. Please comment on whether the literature search approach, screening, evaluation, and selection of studies for inclusion in the assessment are clearly described and supported. **Please comment on whether EPA has clearly identified the criteria (e.g., study quality, risk of bias) used for selection of studies to review, the influential studies to select for inclusion in the assessment, and the key studies used in the development of reference values. Can you recommend improved approaches or criteria to be employed by the agency?** Please identify any additional peer-reviewed studies from the primary literature that should be considered in the assessment of noncancer and cancer health effects of ammonia. **(modified language in bold)**