

## **Excerpt 15**

Letter from Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 2, to Angel Gonzalez, Aleida Centeno, Orlando Negron, Teresa Sanchez, Javier Biaggi, Juan Rosario, Fernando Marquez, and Ivan Federico Elias Rodriguez, dated August 22, 2012, AR II.B.3



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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**AUG 22 2012**

VIA E-MAIL

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Dear: Ms. Sánchez, Ms. Centeno, Mr. González, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Negrón, Mr. Biaggi, Mr. Rosario and Mr. Márquez:

Thank you for your August 3, 2012 letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson about the proposed air permit for the Energy Answers International facility in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Administrator Jackson has asked me to reply. I appreciate your attention to this very important issue. The EPA is committed to a full and transparent public review of the proposed permit. The EPA will make its decision on the permit based on scientific and technical data that must protect people's health and natural resources, with full consideration of public comments.

The EPA understands that the June 25, 2012 public hearing on the permit did not provide a productive opportunity for the public to provide comments. Since the cancelled hearing, the EPA has listened to concerns raised by community representatives and considered recommendations on ways to provide ample opportunity for public comments. The EPA has extended the public comment period to August 31, 2012 and will hold five formal public hearing sessions spread over three days on Saturday, August 25, Sunday, August 26 and Monday, August 27, 2012. The sessions will run on Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The Monday session will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This schedule maximizes opportunities for large numbers of people with varying schedules to attend, including working people, parents of young children and seniors. The EPA has allowed ten minutes for each speaker and, if time allows, will provide an additional ten minutes at the end of the sessions for people to speak a second time as long as all others have had a turn to speak.

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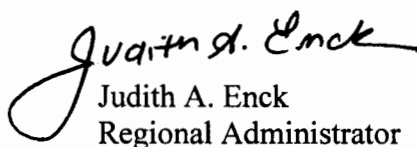
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Public hearings are only one approach that the EPA uses to solicit comments on proposed permits and agency regulatory decisions. The EPA encourages members of the public to submit their comments in writing even if they comment at a public hearing. Submitting comments in writing is the most effective way to provide detailed technical information, studies and data for EPA's consideration.

The EPA welcomes comments from scientific experts and will fully review and consider any technical presentations sent to us in writing during the public comment period. Written comments or presentations can be submitted at the hearing or by mail or email. Information on how to submit comments is attached. The EPA looks forward to hearing public comments at the upcoming sessions and to receiving written comments, all of which will be given equal consideration.

If you have any additional questions, contact Jose Font, Acting Director of the Caribbean Environmental Protection Division, at 787-977-5815 or [font.jose@epa.gov](mailto:font.jose@epa.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Enck  
Regional Administrator