

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials
Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Towns:

This letter is in response to your February 2, 2000, letter concerning the second part of our response to your April 15, 1999, request for information on high priority RCRA corrective action facilities. In our initial letter to you, dated June 14, 1999, we anticipated that we would be able to provide you with additional information within six months.

We since have realized that we significantly underestimated the actual amount of time necessary to obtain an Information Collection Request (ICR) from the Office of Management and Budget and subsequently to complete the work. We have published the first Federal Register (FR) notice required by the Paperwork Reduction Act to allow the public to comment on the ICR. The 60-day public comment ended February 14. A second FR Notice must be published when the ICR is submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The average time for OMB to approve an ICR is 90 days.

I hope that the new schedule outlined below will meet your needs:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Publication of 2 nd FR Notice | February 29, 2000 |
| • ICR approved | June 1, 2000 |
| • Questionnaire sent out to the states | June 15, 2000 |
| • Compilation of data complete | August 17, 2000. |

In your letter, you requested the most recent Regional evaluation of the

RO 14422

authorized states= funding levels and personnel resource levels which are available to implement the RCRA corrective action program. No such evaluation is available. We are forwarding information on resources for the Corrective Action Program in both the EPM and STAG appropriations for FY 2000. Questions concerning authorized state funding levels and personnel resource levels will be

sent out to the authorized states as part of the survey. As soon as we receive and compile this information, it will be sent directly to you.

I would like to apologize for the inaccurate estimate of the time needed to gather this information. Thank you for your interest in the RCRA Corrective Action Program. Your staff may wish to contact George Hull, Office of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 564-3687 with any further questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Fields, Jr.
Assistant Administrator

Enclosures

RO 14422