

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Michael W. Steinberg
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Douglas H. Green
Piper & Marbury
1200 Nineteenth St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-2430

Re: Issuance of Final HWIR-media Rule

Dear Mr. Steinberg and Mr. Green:

This is a follow up to our April 7, 1997 letter regarding EPA's commitment to issue a final Hazardous Waste Identification Rule for Contaminated Media ("the HWIR-media rule") by June 30, 1998. Due to our need to resolve a number of complicated and controversial issues in the rulemaking package, we were not able to meet this deadline. EPA continues to consider issuance of this rule to be among its highest RCRA priorities, and the Administrator expects to sign the final rule no later than October 30, 1998.

Sincerely,

Timothy Fields, Jr.
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency
Response

RO 14188