

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

October 27, 1994

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, 1994 regarding your constituent Jerald Wise's concerns about the regulatory status of industrial wipers under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Mr. Wise requested that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) take action on the Agency Definition of Solid Waste Task Force recommendation that industrial wipers not be regulated as hazardous waste, if appropriate management standards are met.

In my memorandum of February 14, 1994 to the EPA Regional Offices, the Office of Solid Waste's (OSW's) current policy position and efforts related to this matter were described. I have enclosed a copy of that memorandum for Mr. Wise's information.

The Definition of Solid Waste Task Force has now issued its final report containing the Task Force's findings and recommendations regarding the recycling of hazardous waste. The Agency recognizes that uncertainty regarding the regulatory status of industrial rags and wipers, either as solid or hazardous waste, may result in unnecessary expense and/or delay in the management of these materials. Please be assured that Mr. Wise's concerns will be considered in the Agency's decision-making regarding implementation of the Task Force's recommendations.

I hope Mr. Wise finds this information helpful. If Mr. Wise has any additional questions on this issue, he may contact James O'Leary of the Task Force at (202) 260-0724, or Mitchell Kidwell at (202) 260-8551. Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Shapiro, Director
Office of Solid Waste

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