

The Honorable Jim Turner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

Dear Congressman Turner:

Thank you for your letter of June 9, 2000 concerning the possible regulation of concrete, its residuals or by-products as hazardous wastes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

First, in general, concrete products, when used for their normal purpose, are not regulated wastes under RCRA, which governs management of wastes. (The only exception to this would be concrete that was produced using hazardous waste as an ingredient.) Second, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has no plans to develop new regulations which would classify concrete residuals or by-products as hazardous wastes. We are currently evaluating how the existing RCRA regulations apply to the materials that you mention, particularly the concrete wash water from mixer trucks. This requires a careful consideration of various aspects of our regulations and the implications for similar wastes.

We are encouraged by the initial efforts of the concrete and cement industry to increase the reuse of concrete wash water as a substitute for fresh water. Also, as you point out, EPA and state agencies have worked closely with the industry on environmental training programs. We will continue our dialog with industry associations and representatives as well as other interested parties as we consider the applicability of RCRA to the specific activities about which you are concerned.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Robert Maxey of my staff at 703-308-7273.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste

RO 14451