

Mr. Brian Urbaszewski
American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago
1440 W Washington Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Mr. Urbaszewski:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 26, 1999 to Administrator Carol M. Browner regarding the Agency's March 1999 *Report to Congress on Wastes from the Combustion of Fossil Fuels*, and our proposed regulatory determination. The Administrator has asked me to respond to your letter.

I appreciate your concern about these issues. We have added your letter to the fossil fuel combustion docket, and we will respond to those comments when we issue the regulatory determination.

As you requested, I have enclosed a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Peer Review Handbook.

I understand your desire for an extension to the 45-day comment period on the Report. As you may know, we are required to make a regulatory determination within six months of the Report. We supported the motion to the Court by Citizens Interested in Bull Run for an extension of this deadline for the regulatory determination, which would allow an extension of the public comment period. The parties to the motion are now awaiting the Court's ruling. In the interim, my staff has been responding to your questions about docket materials and other requests for information while we proceed in accordance with the current court schedule for issuance of the regulatory determination by October 1, 1999.

Although most of the organizations that signed the letter to Administrator Browner with you did not participate in the development of the Report, we did attempt to involve environmental and public health organizations in our development of the

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Report. Specifically, early in the study effort, we contacted representatives of the Hoosier Environmental Council and the Environmental Defense Fund and invited them and their colleagues and associates to participate during the study phase.

Thank you for your review and comments on the Report to Congress and your continued participation in this Agency action. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Dennis Ruddy of my staff at (703) 308-8430.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

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