



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

JAN 11 1999

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

The Honorable Florence Shapiro
Senate of the State of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Senator Shapiro:

Thank you for your letter of December 1, 1998, expressing support for the City of Frisco's letter of November 19, 1998, in which they ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to grant the petition for a treatment variance submitted by GNB Technologies, Inc. (GNB). The GNB petition requests an alternative disposal standard for treated lead slag generated from their secondary lead recovery process.

We appreciate that lead recovery industries, such as GNB, provide a national service that in turn promotes environmental protection by recovering lead from lead acid batteries and other high lead-containing materials. The Agency also noted with interest the information you provided on the two-time nomination of GNB as a potential recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence as an environmental innovator.

At this point in our review process, we are continuing to evaluate the GNB petition on its technical merits. On December 8, we sent GNB a preliminary response indicating the additional information needed to conduct a full technical analysis. Our ability to finalize a determination on the GNB petition depends substantially on the timely submittal of complete information as outlined in our December 8 letter. In addition, representatives of GNB met with my staff on December 10 to discuss the status of the petition and the additional information requested. We will continue to work with GNB to ensure that the technical information needed to fully evaluate the treatment variance petition is well understood.

We very much appreciate your interest in the GNB petition and more broadly in ensuring that human health and the environment are properly protected. The Agency is hopeful that the petition review process can be expedited as a result of GNB's timely response to our December 8 information request.

Faxback 14328