



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

DEC 15 1999

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Ms. Maria Zannes, President
Integrated Waste Services Association (IWSA)
1401 H Street N.W.
Suite 220
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Zannes:

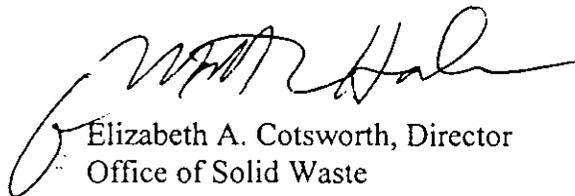
Thank you for your November 19, 1999 letter supporting a conditional exclusion from hazardous waste regulations that would allow the management of non-hazardous solvent-contaminated wipes in a municipal landfill or waste-to-energy facility.

Currently, we are evaluating the viability of several options for the safe and efficient management of solvent-contaminated disposable wipes and reusable shop towels. One management option we are evaluating is the disposal of solvent-contaminated wipes rendered non-hazardous in municipal waste combustors or waste-to-energy facilities subject to the latest Clean Air Act regulations.

If we move forward, a major challenge will be our ability to propose a rule that is user-friendly or easily implementable by the regulated community. As you probably know, tens of thousands of companies use either disposable wipes or reusable shop towels in conjunction with hazardous solvents, with no two companies using the same types of solvent blends under the same operating conditions. Finding a user-friendly, cross-cutting solution becomes a challenge, and any suggestions you and IWSA have would be appreciated.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Jim O'Leary of my staff at (703) 308-8827.

Sincerely yours,



Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste

Faxback 14529