

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

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

The Honorable Bob Barr
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barr:

Thank-you for your letter of December 22, 1995 regarding hazardous waste regulatory standards for barium.

Reevaluation of barium regulatory levels for hazardous waste and in other media based on new scientific studies has been suggested to the Agency previously. We have not had the opportunity to review the studies you cited, and would need complete citations to locate them and review them. Also, the Agency has standards for barium in drinking water, and we would need to coordinate any scientific review and reassessment with the EPA Office responsible for these standards as well. However, the Agency does have many competing regulatory priorities at this time, and it is uncertain when resources to conduct such a review will become available.

We regret the delay in responding to your request. The lack of Congressional funding of EPA and the subsequent shutdown of the Agency prevented an earlier reply. Please contact my office if you have further questions regarding this matter, or have your staff contact Gregory Helms at 202-260-6721.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Shapiro, Director
Office of Solid Waste

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