

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

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Ms. Amy Schaffer
American Forest & Paper Association
1111 19th St., NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Schaffer:

Thank you for your letter of June 19, 1997 to Administrator Browner regarding the Agency's current initiative to reform the RCRA definition of solid waste. We appreciate the energy and resources that the American Forest & Paper Association and other organizations have expended on this complex regulatory reform effort.

At this time, as you know, we are actively considering a number of different options for proposing changes to the RCRA definition of solid waste. The overall goals of this effort are to develop a clearer, simpler system for regulating hazardous waste recycling that adequately protects human health and the environment, and reduce regulatory barriers to environmentally sound recycling. We are currently assessing a number of concerns that have been raised about the in-commerce and transfer-based options, and will be deciding how to proceed with the proposal in the near future. Meanwhile, we have decided to move the streamlined permit forward on its own rulemaking schedule, in order to make that mechanism available to the regulated community as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your continued interest in hazardous waste recycling. Through continuing to work with your organization and other stakeholders, we believe we will be able to arrive at a solution to address the many different situations faced by potentially impacted persons.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Acting Director
Office of Solid Waste

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