

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

JAN 29 1991

Dear Citizen:

This letter is in response to your December 6, 1990 request for further data on the number of notifications of intent to export hazardous waste received by EPA, for shipments that were to occur in 1990. EPA's Office of International Activities received 479 notifications of intent to export hazardous wastes to Canada (1990 shipments), and 78 notifications of intent to export hazardous wastes to all other countries (1990 shipments).

However, we believe a word of caution about the use of this data is in order. First, the number of export notifications received by EPA does not necessarily reflect the number of shipments that occur in the calendar year. In fact, an exporter could notify and receive consent for shipments to occur, yet he may never initiate shipments. Thus, the number of notifications is not (in our view) particularly meaningful. Secondly, due to the timing of the notifications in relation to the calendar year, an export notification for shipments expected to occur in 1990, submitted in late 1990, may or may not receive consent in time for a 1990 shipment to occur. The numbers relayed to you in the first paragraph of this letter are based on EPA's own cut-off point for shipments likely to be made in 1990. However, since the decision on the timing of the shipment (either 1990 or 1991, or even whether to ship at all) is in the hands of the exporter, the numbers in the first paragraph are necessarily approximate, and should not be construed as exact numbers.

Please contact Becky Cuthbertson of my staff at (202) 475-9715, if you have questions about this information.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Denit, Deputy Director
Office of Solid Waste