

September 25, 2007

M. Granger Morgan, Ph.D., Chair
Chartered Science Advisory Board (1400F)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Science Advisory Panel Draft Report
Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Dear Dr. Morgan:

The Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force state agencies of the Upper Mississippi River Subbasin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee (UMRSHNC) representing Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin are asking through UMRSHNC by this letter that the public comment period for the draft report of the SAB Hypoxia Science Panel be extended and that the panel be re-convened to consider all comments received during the public comment period.

The purpose of this request is to 1) afford additional reviews of the August 30 report draft by other scientists from land-grant universities and other technical organizations and agencies, and science advisors of the many stakeholder interests affected by the report, and 2) provide opportunity for the hypoxia science advisory panel to consider all comments received and devote additional time to refine their report.

This letter is on behalf of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force agencies of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and approved at a meeting of UMRSHNC held August 6, 2007.

Sincerely,



Dean W. Lemke, P.E.
Facilitator, Upper Mississippi River Subbasin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee (UMRSHNC)