



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

MAY 20 2011

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Elaine Faustman, Ph.D.
Chairwoman, Science Advisory Board Arsenic Cancer Workgroup
Deborah L. Swackhamer, Ph.D.
Chairwoman, Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Drs. Faustman and Swackhamer:

Thank you very much for your March 1, 2011, letter providing the Science Advisory Board Arsenic Cancer Workgroup's comments following the April 6 and 7, 2010, June 16, 2010, and November 22, 2010, meetings to review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's February 2010 draft of the "Toxicological Review of Inorganic Arsenic: In Support of the Summary Information on the Integrated Risk Information System." The EPA greatly appreciates the workgroup's thorough review and constructive comments.

We are revising the draft toxicological review and anticipate posting a final version to the Integrated Risk Information System database during late summer 2011. Our revisions will give full consideration to the workgroup's comments and recommendations and to public comments as well. Some of the more notable changes planned for the draft toxicological review include:

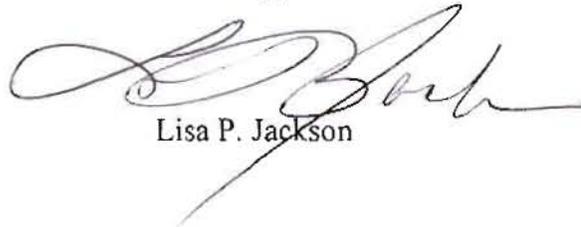
- Expanded discussion and clarification of the criteria for evaluating the scientific quality of epidemiological studies as well as expanded discussion of study power and potential bias;
- Review and incorporation of major epidemiology studies published since 2007 that could substantially impact the cancer unit risk estimate will be included in an appendix;
- Expanded discussion of how the modeling results compare with U.S.-relevant exposure levels;
- Inclusion of the data and parameter tables used in the modeling analysis as well as an expanded discussion to clarify the selection of default assumptions for water concentration and arsenic intake from drinking water and non-water sources;
- Expanded discussion of the sensitivity analyses performed in response to the 2007 Science Advisory Board report, including clarifying text and graphical analysis;
- Addition of sensitivity analyses considering additional permutations of water consumption, layered assumptions and sensitivity of female bladder cancer;
- Expanded discussion of exposure assumptions, including clarifying text on the basis of exposure assumptions and delineation of organic versus inorganic exposure, with additional quantification of non-water arsenic intake from sources other than dietary exposure incorporated; and

- Expanded discussion of the Taiwan datasets used in developing the risk model, including more detailed descriptions of the exposure and mortality data as well as variability in arsenic water concentration measurements and age patterns of cancer mortality.

In addition, the entire exposure dataset will be included as an appendix. Where possible, epidemiology study summaries will include a quantitative or qualitative presentation of the relative risk point estimates and the associated confidence intervals

In closing, I want to reiterate my thanks to you and the workgroup members for reviewing the draft toxicological review. Your advice and detailed comments have been very valuable in guiding the EPA's revisions. Your efforts will help to ensure that the best science is used in this Integrated Risk Information System assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa P. Jackson', written in a cursive style.

Lisa P. Jackson

cc: Paul Anastas
Becki Clark
John Vandenberg
Betsy Behl
Reeder Sams
Elizabeth Doyle
John Cowden
Santhini Ramasamy
Ila Cote