



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

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THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. M. Granger Morgan
Chair, Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dr. Deborah Cory-Slechta
Chair, PFOA Risk Assessment Review Panel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Drs. Morgan and Cory-Slechta:

Thank you for sending me the Science Advisory Board Perfluorooctanoic Acid Risk Assessment Review Panel's report on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Draft Risk Assessment of Potential Human Health Effects Associated with Perfluorooctanoic Acid and Its Salts. EPA appreciates the Panel's work in conducting a peer review of the preliminary risk assessment to ensure that the Agency is on a reasonable path handling a number of difficult, technical, and novel scientific issues that PFOA poses. The Panel's input will be extremely valuable as we continue our efforts to develop a full and comprehensive assessment of the risks associated with PFOA.

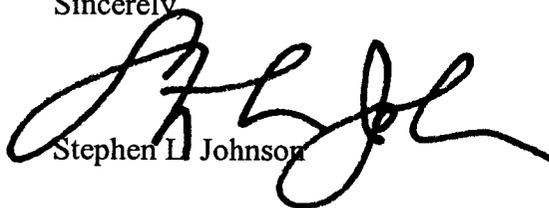
It has been nearly two years since the package of information that the Panel reviewed was compiled, and since that time, a considerable amount of research has been completed by or is presently underway at government and private research laboratories in the United States and other parts of the world. Examples include researching the mode of action of PFOA – induced liver toxicity, immunotoxicity, a cross-fostering developmental toxicity study, and pharmacokinetic modeling in mice. In addition, additional biomonitoring data will soon be available from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

The Agency is working as expeditiously as possible to develop a better and more complete understanding of the sources and pathways of exposure to PFOA, and it intends to integrate this new toxicity testing and mechanistic data into the risk assessment as it becomes available. EPA will seek a second SAB review upon completion of a final risk assessment.

Earlier this year, the Agency invited industry to commit to reducing its PFOA emissions and product content level by 95 percent by 2010 and work toward elimination of emissions and levels in products by 2015; therefore, the Agency has decided not to wait until it has all the answers on PFOA. All of the major companies involved in the manufacture and use of PFOA have formally committed and have joined the Agency in this effort. The companies include Arkema, Asahi, Ciba, Clariant, Daikin, DuPont, 3M/Dyneon, and Solvay Solexis.

Again, I appreciate the work of the SAB and the PFOA Panel in carefully reviewing this preliminary draft risk assessment and look forward to working with the you again when we have a final draft assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. Johnson', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'Stephen L. Johnson'.

Stephen L. Johnson