



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

NOV 28 2005

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Consultation on the Polychlorinated Biphenyl-Artificial Reef Risk Assessment

FROM: J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. I. Palmer, Jr.", written over the typed name.

TO: Dr. Granger Morgan, Chair
Science Advisory Board
Office of the Administrator

Dr. Joan Rose, Chair
PCB-ARRA Consultative Panel
Science Advisory Board

Thank you for your October 14, 2005, letter to Stephen L. Johnson, EPA Administrator, concerning the August 1-2, 2005, meeting of the SAB's Polychlorinated Biphenyl-Artificial Reef Risk Assessment Consultative Panel (Panel). Your letter was forwarded to the EPA Region 4 office in Atlanta, Georgia, for response.

The Panel was formed at the request of EPA Region 4 and the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxic Substances to support our review of the Navy's application for a PCB disposal approval. The Navy has proposed to sink the ex-Orinskany, a Korean War era aircraft carrier, as an artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico. EPA must determine if the solid-matrix PCBs remaining on the vessel would pose an unreasonable risk of injury to human health or the environment subsequent to the vessel's sinking. The Panel was asked by EPA to respond to a series of questions concerning the technical strengths and weaknesses of leaching study results and fate and transport models the Navy presented in support of its application.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the timely and important support provided to EPA Region 4 by the SAB and members of the Panel. The Panel members' comments will help guide EPA's decisions as we move forward with the ex-Orinskany project and continue our discussions with the Navy over its pursuit of a national PCB disposal approval for future artificial reefing projects.