



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

THE ADMINISTRATOR

JAN 8 2009

Dr. Deborah L. Swackhamer
Chair
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Swackhamer:

I am writing to provide information about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision relating to perchlorate in drinking water. Your letter of November 5, 2008, sent on behalf of the Science Advisory Board, expressed your belief that there must be a compelling scientific basis to support a determination not to regulate perchlorate in drinking water.

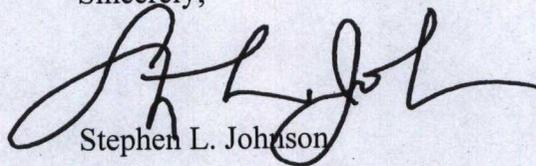
I agree with you that the science on this issue is very complex, and the comments we received on the preliminary regulatory determination raised many important questions. We are therefore withholding a final regulatory determination in order to consult with the National Academy of Sciences on several specific scientific issues that were raised by commenters on the preliminary regulatory determination.

The Agency is also issuing an interim health advisory to help public health officials and public water systems take appropriate action to address local incidences of perchlorate contamination. EPA developed the health advisory level of 15 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) to address the most sensitive subpopulation identified by the National Research Council – the fetuses of pregnant women – taking into account high-end estimates of perchlorate exposure from both food and consumption of drinking water for this subpopulation.

I assure you that the Agency intends to issue a final regulatory determination for perchlorate in drinking water and will move as expeditiously as possible after considering the results of the NAS review.

Again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate the SAB's continuing interest in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Stephen L. Johnson

cc: Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water
Thomas Miller, DFO, SAB



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

THE ADMINISTRATOR

JAN 8 2009

Dr. Joan Rose
Chair
Drinking Water Committee
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Rose:

I am writing to provide information about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision relating to perchlorate in drinking water. Your letter of November 5, 2008, sent on behalf of the Science Advisory Board, expressed your belief that there must be a compelling scientific basis to support a determination not to regulate perchlorate in drinking water.

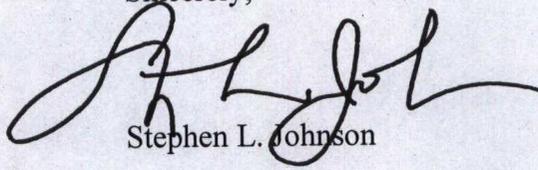
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Stephen L. Johnson

cc: Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water
Thomas Miller, DFO, SAB