

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
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July 27, 2007

To: Members of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Science Advisory Panel

RE: Review Comments for the Draft Report Dated July 23, 2007

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Iowa State University (ISU) recognizes the important contributions you are making as scientists, serving on the Hypoxia Advisory Panel, to update and refine the science related to hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. It is critically important that the science of hypoxia, its causes and possible methods to attenuate its area, be correctly identified, to most effectively guide policy and initiatives to address this important environmental issue.

Your draft report of July 23, 2007 incorporates research from a broad array of science disciplines. While we recognize your very considerable efforts to date in assembling the draft report, the breadth and depth of science represented in this report warrants thorough science reviews by the involved science community outside of the panel. These reviews should include multi-disciplinary consideration and input from key scientists, and for the basin science in particular, from researchers of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of ISU (and possibly researchers from other Corn Belt land-grant universities).

The needed science reviews and input to the panel from the College's research community will take an extended period of time given the 334 pages of the report; certainly beyond the final scheduled meetings of the panel by teleconferences on July 30 and August 1.

We ask the panel to better clarify your scheduled ending date for receiving input to the draft, knowing that the panel will need adequate time to resolve and incorporate the input received. From our perspective, a September 15th deadline for submission of review materials would be much more realistic.

Please consider this request at your meetings July 30 and August 1, and advise the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of your schedule.

Sincerely,



Wendy Wintersteen
Dean and Director

WW:jfs