



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

AUG 11 2009

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Bruce W. Barrows, Mayor
City of Cerritos
18125 Bloomfield Avenue
P.O. Box 3130
Cerritos, CA 90703-3130

Dear Mayor Barrows,

Thank you for your letters of July 29 and August 4, 2009, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson. She has asked me to follow up on your concerns and it is my pleasure to do so. I understand the complications and concerns that have been raised by the June release of information about toxic air pollution in your community, and I want to work with you, CARB, and South Coast to address these issues. We are sorry that Cerritos suffered negative attention it did not deserve, and we would like to reiterate our commendation of the City for its strong commitment to a clean and healthy environment, as evidenced by the list of notable accomplishments in your August 4 letter.

I appreciate the invitation you extended for EPA to send a representative to an August 18 town meeting in Cerritos, which the city is holding to discuss local issues associated with the 2002 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) and to provide current information about air quality in Cerritos. Representatives from our Region 9 Air Division and Southern California Field Office will be pleased to participate in the meeting, and we look forward to ensuring that any remaining questions about NATA 2002 and current air quality conditions in Cerritos are addressed.

In addition, I would like to respond to the specific requests in your August 4 letter:

As you have pointed out, the data submitted to EPA by the state of California and reported in NATA relating to PGP Industries (now Heraeus Metal Processing) did not accurately reflect the facility's 2002 emissions of hydrazine. In addition, the data included incorrect census tract information for the facility. We will revise the 2002 NATA with the correct data and provide you an updated report as soon as possible.

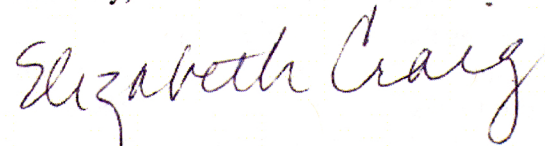
Our Regional Office has been working closely with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the California Air Resources Board to investigate and correct shortcomings in the reporting process and to improve the verification and quality of NATA data, as explained in Acting Regional Administrator Laura Yoshii's July 15 letter.

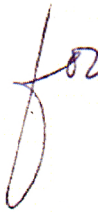
While EPA requested comments and corrections from all States, including California, on both the inventory used in NATA 2002 and on the NATA 2002 results, in advance of its release, we recognize that we must do more to facilitate these reviews. We acknowledge that we should have done better in our preparation to release this most recent NATA, and we are already working on improvements. As you know, we update our NATA analysis and website every three years to serve as a screening tool to provide consistent local and national estimates of air toxics.

In preparing for our next release, we will implement the excellent suggestions for both reviewing results and improving communications recommended by Barry Wallerstein that were cited in your letter – improving coordination with state and local air agencies, identifying and double checking areas with the highest estimated risk prior to public release, and more clearly highlighting the appropriate uses of the results, and data limitations.

I hope you will not hesitate to contact me at (202) 564-7404 or Laura Yoshii at (415) 947-8702 if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Elizabeth Craig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

for
Gina McCarthy
Assistant Administrator