

Response to Marcus Peacock's second letter, from an anonymous EPA employee....

Once again, Marcus Peacock's letter to Yubanet News (published on 10-20-2006) is filled with misleading statements and false promises. Let's take Mr. Peacock's statements one at a time:

In response to the question of how much it will cost to digitize these tens of thousands of EPA library reports, Mr. Peacock's glibly replied, "Not much."

Why do these EPA senior managers continue to refuse to provide ANY information on the total dollar amount that it will cost to convert all these documents to an electronic form? Is it because the total dollar amount will EXCEED the alleged \$2 million in savings that they say will result from these library closures?

I am willing to bet that if the total costs of closing the EPA libraries so far ---- including EPA Headquarters, Region 5, 6 and 7, the Ft. Meade Library in Region 3, and the New Jersey library in Region 2 ---- were added up, these costs would exceed the so-called \$2 million savings. But how can EPA employees or the public ever know for sure? EPA managers REFUSE to release the cost information.

Peacock: "All of the unique EPA material from the Region 5's physical library has already been digitized." Well, perhaps that depends on Mr. Peacock's definition of "unique." The fact is that ONLY THE EPA REPORTS were actually digitized. The rest of the Region 5 library materials were boxed up and sent to one of EPA's "repositories," where they sit. What are these materials? Have they been re-catalogued to show their new locations? Who knows? Can any member of the public get a list of all the items that used to be in the Region 5 library, and compare this list with what appears in EPA's library catalogue? I doubt it. But it would be worth a try if any of your readers want to send EPA a Freedom of Information Act request.

Peacock: (In response to the question "Does the FY 2007 budget for EPA have the funds to pay for this digitization?") "Yup. It's in the Office of Environmental Information budget." Then show us the numbers, Mr. Peacock! These folksy assurances of "Trust me, I care; and I'll make sure these library closures will be done right" just don't cut it with EPA's employees. Especially not in the atmosphere of fear, intimidation, and suppression that has permeated EPA for the past six years.

And speaking of the atmosphere of intimidation...Mr. Peacock, do you seriously believe that ANY EPA employee would approach you, to tell you that they couldn't get a library item that they needed, as a result of all these closures? Many, many of us believe that if we did so, a Letter of Reprimand would land in our Official Personnel Files faster than you can say "library closures."

Mr. Peacock, I challenge you.....if you truly are as interested in maintaining continued access to EPA library materials, as you claim, then go talk to the EPA library managers yourself. Talk to them one-on-one, in private, WITHOUT their immediate supervisors

being present. Maybe some of them will open up to you and tell you what is REALLY going on behind the scenes.

But then again, maybe they won't....that fear and intimidation thing could get in the way. But at least you would have tried to get to the truth.

Regretfully, because of my own fear, I must sign this as
"Anonymous EPA employee"