



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JAN 10 2012

Mr. George Hartenstein
Acting Director, Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Hartenstein:

I am writing to bring your attention to an important issue regarding 1,4-dioxane (p-dioxane) that may impact your land clean-up programs and may necessitate an action by your Department. This issue could involve sites with 1,4-dioxane as a contaminant being cleaned-up under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action program, or under your state's voluntary clean-up program.

Early last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the "2011 Edition of the Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories" table (Health Advisory table) that lists maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), lifetime health advisory levels (HALs) and other health-risked based drinking water advisory levels for contaminants in drinking water. This table can be found at <http://water.epa.gov/action/advisories/drinking/upload/dwstandards2011.pdf>.

The 2011 EPA Health Advisory table erroneously published a lifetime HAL for 1,4-Dioxane of 0.2 mg/l. This lifetime HAL was based on the recently released noncancer reference dose (RfD) for 1,4-Dioxane. However, it is the policy of the EPA Office of Water that lifetime HALs should not be developed for chemicals that are considered "known," "probable," or "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" by EPA. Because EPA characterizes 1,4-Dioxane as "likely to be carcinogenic to humans," no lifetime HAL should have been derived for 1,4-Dioxane.

EPA will be correcting the Health Advisories table in the next 2-3 months by removing the lifetime HAL from the table for 1,4-dioxane. In the meantime, EPA strongly recommends that your Department take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the lifetime health advisory value for 1,4-dioxane in the 2011 table not be used for clean-up goals for 1,4-dioxane contaminated sites.



Please contact me with any questions or your staff may contact our toxicologist,
Elizabeth Quinn at 215-814-3388.

Sincerely,



Abraham Ferdas, Director
Land and Chemicals Division

cc: Dwayne Womer, PADEP
Troy Conrad, PADEP

