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

MAY 16 2011

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

Thank you for your April 11, 2011, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the timeline for finalizing EPA's dioxin reassessment. We appreciate your interest and support in quickly finalizing the reassessment. Assessing and managing the risks associated with dioxin has been one of Administrator Jackson's top priorities since she took office and we at EPA are committed to working toward a full scientific understanding of dioxin's effects on human health as soon as possible.

As you know, EPA's External Review Draft *Reanalysis of Key Issues Related to Dioxin Toxicity and Response to NAS Comments (Reanalysis)* is still undergoing external peer review. On February 9, 2011, the Agency's Science Advisory Board (SAB) Dioxin Review Panel released their draft report on the Reanalysis and on March 1-2, of 2011, the SAB Dioxin Review Panel evaluated its draft report during two public teleconferences. Based on these teleconferences, the SAB panelists are currently revising their draft report, and EPA anticipates receiving the Review Panel's final report this summer.

We received many useful comments during the public review process, and look forward to improving the Reanalysis once we receive the final SAB report. Following receipt of the SAB Dioxin Review Panel's final review, EPA anticipates completing the Reanalysis as expeditiously as possible. This will be one of my office's highest priorities. The timeline for completing the Reanalysis is contingent upon the release date and complexity of the Review Panel's final review comments.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or have your staff call David Piantanida in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at 202-564-8318.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Anastas

Paul T. Anastas
Assistant Administrator