UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 25 1999

J. Routt Reigart, M.D., Chair
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Medical University of South Carolina
171 Ashley Avenue
Charleston, SC 29425-3302

Dear Dr. Reigart:

Thank you for your letter of February 18 to Administrator Carol Browner regarding the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). Because this office is responsible for implementing this legislation, Administrator Browner asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your letter provides the comments of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Residential Exposure Assessments. I understand that your Committee would like to meet with us in April to discuss your concerns regarding the need to fully assess infants' and children's exposures to pesticides. We appreciate the committee's interest in this important issue and look forward to discussing it with you and other members of your committee.

We have received many substantial comments on the draft Residential Exposure SOP. The comment period closed on March 4. EPA must review these comments and issue revised SOP by June. Your comments will, of course, be given careful consideration in this review. The FIFRA Science Advisory Panel will consider the revised SOP, including EPA's response to comments, at their June meeting. Because of the demands of this schedule, we will not be able to meet at the time you suggested. We believe that we will be ready to meet you and your committee in the summer.

I share your belief that accurate estimation of children's residential exposures is key to assessing children's risk from pesticide exposures. I am grateful that your committee has taken an interest in this issue and I look forward to exploring it with you when we meet.

Sincerely,
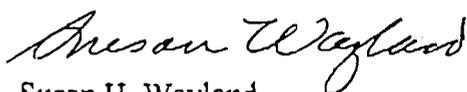
Susan H. Wayland
Acting Assistant Administrator