



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

JAN 11 2001

THE ADMINISTRATOR

J. Rount Reigart, MD
Chair
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Medical University of South Carolina
165 Cannon Street, Suite 503
PO Box 250853
Charleston, SC 29425

Dear Dr. Reigart:

Thank you for your letter of October 27, 2000, conveying the recommendations of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee for future actions to protect children's environmental health. Let me begin by thanking you and all of the members of the Committee for the thoughtfulness and effort that went into developing these ideas and for the Committee's continuing commitment to helping the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) improve its children's health protection programs. Your advice over the past few years has been invaluable and I want to express my personal appreciation for your efforts.

The environmental health and safety of America's children should remain a priority for the foreseeable future and I will convey this to the incoming Administration. I am confident that the protection of children's health will continue to enjoy broad support and we will continue to make significant progress in reducing asthma, lead poisoning and other environmental threats.

I also agree that we must accelerate the pace of research and data analyses with respect to the effects of environmental agents on developing fetuses and children. I especially support the development and implementation of a national longitudinal cohort study of environmental impacts on fetuses, infants, and children to enable us to better understand environmental factors that affect health.

The development of improved methodologies for conducting economic analyses of regulations and policies affecting children's environmental health policies must also be a high priority, as should the development of solid economic data that will help to increase the availability of financing for environmentally-related preventive care programs.

We must also have reliable indicators against which to measure our progress. Recently, EPA released *America's Children and the Environment: A First View of Available Measures*, which presents measures that reflect trends in levels of environmental contaminants in air, water, food, and soil as well as lead concentrations in children and childhood diseases that may be influenced by environmental factors.

We must continue to build on the progress we have made in helping the health care provider community be better prepared to prevent, diagnose, and treat children with potentially environmentally-related conditions.

Again, thank you for all that you and other members of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee have done, both in your advisory capacity as well as in the roles each of you play in your own organizations, to promote the health and well-being of children.

Sincerely,



Carol M. Browner