



Karl S. Bourdeau
1350 I Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-7202
Direct:(202) 789-6019
Fax:(202) 789-6190
kbourdeau@bdlaw.com

September 2, 2014

Monica D. Jones
Director, Quality Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Information
Mail Code 2810A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Information Quality Act Guidelines Request for Correction #14002

Dear Ms. Jones:

I am writing in response to your July 2, 2014 letter regarding the status of the above-referenced Information Quality Act (“IQA”) Guidelines Request for Correction (“RFC”). Your letter noted that EPA was continuing to review that RFC and that the Agency anticipated that a final response or status report would be provided to me within 90 business days (i.e., by November 5, 2014), if not sooner.

I am writing to obtain an updated status report on the progress that EPA is making in its review of this RFC. In particular, I would appreciate it if you could consult with the EPA managers and staff who are reviewing the RFC to determine if they now expect that a final response to the RFC will be provided by November 5, 2014, or at an earlier or later date. If at a later date, I request that EPA provide an estimate of when it expects that date will be.

In addition, Section 8.5 of EPA’s IQA Guidelines provides that when EPA furnishes opportunities for public participation by seeking comments on information it disseminates, the Agency generally expects to address comments that go to information quality (e.g., whether that information is consistent with IQA standards) in its response to comments regarding the information at issue rather than through the administrative correction mechanisms established elsewhere in EPA’s IQA Guidelines. In particular, Section 8.5 of the Guidelines states that this approach of addressing requests for correction of information in the response to comments, rather than through the otherwise applicable IQA administrative mechanisms, would “generally apply to . . . processes involving a structured opportunity for public comment on a draft or

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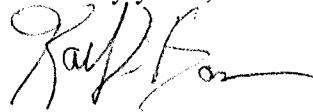
proposed document before a final document is issued, such as a draft report, risk assessment, or guidance document.”

RFC #14002 pertains to the draft IRIS assessment for Libby Amphibole Asbestos (“LAA”). EPA provided at least some opportunity for public comment on that draft toxicity assessment. As a result, and consistent with what appears to be EPA practice with other IQA requests for correction regarding IRIS assessments, that RFC requested that EPA provide its response to the RFC in its response to public comments on the draft LAA IRIS Assessment.

Accordingly, I would appreciate it if you would consult with the EPA managers and staff conducting the review of this RFC and let me know if EPA intends to respond to the RFC in its response to public comments on the draft LAA IRIS Assessment when the final assessment is issued, or instead intends to provide a response pursuant to those administrative mechanisms otherwise applicable under EPA’s IQA guidelines.

Thank you for your courtesies in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl S. Bourdeau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karl S. Bourdeau

cc: Pamela Marks