



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

JAN 11 2008

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

I am writing to further respond to your letter of December 20, 2007 requesting information regarding California's request for a waiver under section 209 of the Clean Air Act. You requested certain records by January 7, 2008, and additional documents thereafter. I responded by letter on January 4, 2008, indicating the steps the Agency is taking in order to respond this request. This letter updates you on our efforts.

Please be assured that EPA respects your very strong interest in this issue and is committed to providing the Committee information necessary to satisfy its oversight interests to the extent possible and consistent with our Constitutional and statutory obligations. As I stated in my January 4 letter, your request is a top priority for the Agency and we are working hard to respond as quickly as possible. As you know, the Agency responded immediately after receiving your request by sending mass mailers on December 21 and 26, 2007, directing all Agency personnel to preserve responsive documents. We have also established a computer database to facilitate the collection and processing of documents, and thus make further response more efficient.

Although our document collection process is still ongoing, we have made significant progress in collecting possibly responsive documents from across the Agency. The volume of possibly responsive documents already collected is consistent with the estimate given in my January 4 letter. I expect staff in the Administrator's Office and the Office of Air and Radiation will have substantially completed their searches by today and those in other parts of the Agency by January 18.

I also appreciate the willingness of your staff to communicate the Committee's priorities so that our efforts can be more focused. During a conversation between Bettina Poirier of your staff and Anthony Reed of my staff on January 8, Ms. Poirier identified the categories of documents in which the Committee is most immediately interested. Please be assured that we are working to identify those categories of documents as quickly as possible, and expect to further respond soon.

Finally, as I discussed with Ms. Poirier on January 9, Administrator Johnson is planning to appear before the Committee at its January 24 hearing in Washington, D.C. As we continue working on your request, we look forward to additional discussions with your staff about ways in which we can assist the Committee to the extent possible with its preparations for this hearing.

If you have further questions regarding this letter, please contact me or have your staff call Tom Dickerson in my office at (202) 564-3638.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Bliley', written in a cursive style.

Christopher P. Bliley
Associate Administrator

cc: The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member