

**Statement of Michael L. Dourson, Ph.D., DABT, FATS, FSRA  
Nominated to be Assistant Administrator,  
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
September 20th, 2017**

Chairman Barrasso, Senator Carper and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the privilege of coming before you today as the nominee for the position of Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. I am honored that President Trump, Administrator Pruitt and this Committee are considering me for this position.

I would also like to thank my many current and former colleagues with the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine, the independent nonprofit Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA),<sup>1</sup> and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their support and friendship.

I have worked on chemical safety and pollution prevention issues for my entire professional career, as a board-certified toxicologist in 3 different organizations, and as an officer in one or more groups within 5 different scientific societies. This work included developing scientific positions to support rulemaking under congressional legislation, such as the Clean Water Act, or pollution control/prevention measures, as in my role as EPA's first leader of its Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). I have also served as a chair or member of well over 100 scientific peer review panels to review other efforts, for example, as chair of the panel that reviewed the 9 government agencies

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<sup>1</sup> Work for TERA was 2/3rds for government sponsors and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> for industry sponsors; collaborations were fostered whenever possible.

response to the world trade disaster,<sup>2</sup> or as chair of the panel that reviewed the government response to a West Virginia river spill and recommended lowering the existing safe dose by 8-fold.<sup>3</sup>

If confirmed as the Assistant Administrator for OCSPP, I will dedicate my mind, body and spirit to the work of this office, to working with its staff, to the protection of the American public and its environment from overexposure to pesticides and chemicals, and to answering any and all of your questions and those of your constituents on chemical specific matters, at any time.

In contrast, I will not deviate in my decisions from the scientific principles of toxicology and risk assessment that have been taught to me by my mentors and co-workers, nor deviate from the code of ethics by my Society of Toxicology or my Society for Risk Analysis, nor ever stop listening to my colleagues whose expertise I do not have but otherwise cherish.

As you would expect, I will work with my Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance colleagues in the enforcement of environmental laws that you, the representatives of our nation, have established. I strongly support those laws and will do everything in my power to assure that they are being administered fairly and without prejudice.

Finally, I will strongly foster, without reservation, a collaborative spirit with our federal and state colleagues, and those from other nations, organizations and the public on pesticides and otherwise unregulated chemicals. It is through such collaboration that EPA's practice of safety assessment and pollution prevention will meet the needs of the

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<sup>2</sup> See: <http://www.tera.org/Peer/WTC/welcome.htm>

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://www.tera.org/Peer/WV/WV%20Expert%20Report%2012%20May%202014.pdf>

21<sup>st</sup> century and will best protect public health and the environment. Your passing of the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act was a significant milestone enabled by a bipartisan effort that included collection of diverse outside groups. Nothing less should be expected of OCSPP, which now carries your torch.

I appreciate the time and effort you have devoted to reviewing my credentials and background materials, and look forward to any questions you or your colleagues may have regarding this, or related, information.