



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

November 15, 2021

Mr. Doug Krapas
Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force/iPCB/TSCA Work Group Lead
Inland Empire Paper Company
3320 North Argonne Road
Millwood, Washington 99212

Dear Mr. Krapas:

Thank you for the October 27, 2021, letter on behalf of the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force requesting a status update to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's research to develop additional health assessment data for certain Polychlorinated Biphenyl congeners and Aroclors.

As you noted, in 2015 the EPA informed the Task Force that it had requested toxicity testing on PCB-11 through the National Toxicology Program at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. In 2018 the EPA affirmed that the NTP was addressing this request. The EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention manages the request for PCB-11 toxicity testing to the NTP. This month, NTP confirmed that they have completed the following steps evaluating toxicity in liver cells:

1. Evaluated and compared activation of three different receptors in rat and human hepatocytes.
2. Performed hepatocyte clearance in rat and human hepatocytes.
3. Estimating the rat and human equivalent exposures at the Point of Departure.

The research team at NTP is developing a final report on this research. While we do not have a firm deadline for the release of the report, we anticipate it to be completed within the next six months. When the report is finalized, we will arrange for a presentation to the Task Force on the research and findings.

In addition to the research that the NTP is conducting, the EPA Region 10 and our Office of Research and Development are conducting research to evaluate PCBs in consumer products and on potential exposure pathways. As you are aware, Michelle Mullin, EPA R10's PCB Coordinator and Xiaoyu Liu from the EPA's Office of Research and Development regularly update the TSCA/iPCB sub-group of the Task Force on their research and presented their most recent findings to the TSCA/iPCB sub-group earlier this month.

Thank you again for writing to the EPA to inquire about the important research that NTP is conducting. We remain firmly committed to our collaborative working relationship with the Task Force and will ensure that the Task Force is briefed on the report when it is available.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please feel free to contact me, or Lucy Edmondson of my staff, at edmondson.lucy@epa.gov or (360) 753-9082. I look forward to continuing our work together to protect human health and the environment.

Sincerely,

**MICHELLE
PIRZADEH**

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MICHELLE PIRZADEH
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Michelle L. Pirzadeh
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Laura Watson, Director
WA Department of Ecology

Mr. Vince McGowan, Water Quality Program Manager
WA Department of Ecology

Ms. Brook Beeler, Eastern Regional Director
WA Department of Ecology