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October 19, 2011

Ms. Monica Jones
Acting Director, Quality Staff
Office of Environmental Information
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 2811R
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Request for Correction (RFC #10005) – *Study associated with Toxicological Review of Methanol: In Support of the Summary Information on the IRIS External Peer Review Draft*

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for your letter of October 12th providing a status update on our July 2010, Information Quality Guidelines (IQG) Request for Correction related to cancer data collected by the Ramazzini Institute and the draft IRIS Methanol Toxicological Review containing these data. As you noted in your letter dated June 6th, 2011, the “cancer” portion of the draft methanol assessment remains on hold. This action was taken pending the outcome of a Pathology Working Group Review of the Ramazzini data, which we understand took place in April 2011, and that the Agency is currently waiting for a summary report from the National Toxicology Program on the PWG results.

Your most recent letter noted that the EPA expects to address the questions we raised in our original request “in an updated draft methanol cancer assessment and through the IRIS public comment and peer review process.” Based on this statement, we understand that the Agency does plan to revise the cancer portion of the assessment, which would then go back through the public comment and review process. We would expect that the public comment process would include an opportunity for both written comments by the public, as well as oral comments at a “listening session,” and through participation in a public hearing of the External Peer Review panel which had been previously noticed under the Science Advisory Board. If the EPA has the intention of submitting the revised draft cancer assessment through a public comment and review process that does not include the full opportunity for public comment as outlined above, we would request that the Agency provide us with a description of its planned review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Dolan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gregory Dolan
Executive Director, Americas/Europe

CC: Dr. Vincent James Cogliano, IRIS Program Director