



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

JUL - 8 2005

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jerry A. Cook
Technical Director
Chemical Products Corporation
P.O. Box 2470
Cartersville, GA 30120-1692

RE: Revised IRIS Assessment for Barium and Compounds

Dear Mr. Cook:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would like to inform you that the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program's Toxicological Review of Barium and Compounds has been revised. A re-evaluation of this assessment was initiated in response to the Request for Correction (RFC 2293) and subsequent communications that you submitted to the Agency. As a result of this re-evaluation, it was determined that an increased incidence of nephropathy in mice reported by the National Toxicology Program provides the best available dose-response data for use in the derivation of an oral reference dose (RfD). A new RfD based on this approach was proposed in a draft document that was externally peer reviewed in June 2004. The revised assessment was subsequently approved through the Agency's internal review process. The revised IRIS assessment for barium and compounds is available on our web site at <http://www.epa.gov/IRIS>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Farland".

William H. Farland
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Science