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July 11, 2006

Dr. George Gray
Assistant Administrator for Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Gray:

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) sought an independent Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) expert review of its Land Restoration and Preservation Research Program. A key aspect of the Program is that it supports the Office of Solid Waste (OSW) research needs and three Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) trust fund programs for which research is authorized: Superfund, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Corrective Action, and the Oil Spills Program.

After consultation with EPA staff, the BOSC formed the nine-member Land Restoration and Preservation Subcommittee to review and evaluate the Program. The Subcommittee was composed of representatives from academia, industry, and government. Dr. Charlie Menzie of Menzie-Cura and Associates, Inc., and Dr. James R. Clark of Exxon-Mobil Research and Engineering Company (also a member of BOSC Executive Committee) served as the Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee was charged with evaluating ORD's Land Restoration and Preservation Research Program with respect to relevance, quality, performance, scientific leadership, and resources. The Subcommittee members communicated through an administrative conference call and two substantive conference calls open to the public. In addition, the Subcommittee met with Agency program directors, individual researchers, Science To Achieve Results (STAR) grantees, clients, stakeholders, and the public to conduct the program review and draft a report for BOSC Executive Committee approval.

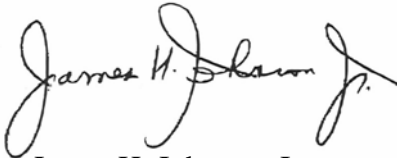
The results of the review are anticipated to assist ORD in Program enhancement, comparative analysis with similar programs, intermediate mid-term investment decisions, Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) reporting, and response to the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process. Overall, the Subcommittee finds that the Program is

meeting its stated goals and that the Land Multi-Year Plan (MYP) provides an adequate roadmap for achieving those goals in the future. The Report identifies nine overarching issues related to the Land MYP and provides recommendation for each. In addition, observations and recommendations are provided with regard to each of the charge questions. The charge questions and the Subcommittee's response are contained in the enclosed report.

It is my pleasure to transmit this report to you on behalf of the BOSC Executive Committee and the Land Restoration and Preservation Research Subcommittee. We hope that the advice provided in the report will assist ORD in improving its science, explaining the significance of its research, and assisting clients inside and outside of EPA in utilizing its research products.

Please feel free to contact me if there are questions regarding the report. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James H. Johnson, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

James H. Johnson, Jr.
Chair