



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

MAR 5 2003

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Government Reform
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman:

Thank you for your letter of December 20, 2002, regarding the Agency's grant initiative to train health care providers to better recognize, manage, and prevent occupational pesticide poisoning. I agree with you that it is important to have the leading experts involved in public environmental forums whenever possible, and I assure you that the Agency continues to strive to maintain objective and balanced advisory panels.

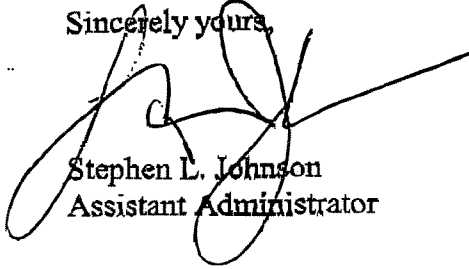
As you noted, the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF), is planning a national forum to showcase the results of the health care provider initiative, under a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of this initiative is to build a sound infrastructure for training of primary care medical providers. In July 2002, the grantee asked for Agency comment on a draft agenda for a proposed September 2002 forum. EPA staff commented that the agenda did not appear to appropriately focus the purpose of the initiative, nor adequately establish the proper context for the initiative's focus during the opening session of the meeting. The proposed agenda topics appeared to be more focused on children's health issues than on the initiative's main purpose, which is to train health care providers to better recognize, manage, and treat pesticide illnesses.

EPA staff also commented that the September date for the national forum would preclude showcasing results of some important NEETF projects nearing completion related to training of health care providers. After stakeholder comment and input from EPA, the grantee decided that the best interests of the initiative would be served by postponing the forum until June 2003.

Enclosed is the new agenda recently developed by NEETF and a list of the National Forum Planning Committee members. The organization worked with the National Forum Planning Committee composed of a balanced array of twenty-two representatives from federal agencies, academia, medical researchers, doctors, nurses, medical associations, and industry groups. Their goal was to develop a robust agenda focused on effective models for integrating occupational health issues into health care provider education and practice.

Again, thank you for your interest in these issues and for sharing your concern for EPA's oversight of their grantees. Although there is a lot of freedom allowed grantees, good oversight of federal funds demands that grantees adhere to the goals and objectives outlined in their proposal. Please contact me if you have further concerns or questions, or your staff may contact Betsy Henry in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-7222.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen L. Johnson
Assistant Administrator

enclosures

3/5/03

NATIONAL FORUM DRAFT AGENDA
NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS: PESTICIDE INITIATIVE
June 10-11, 2003

CROWN PALACE HOTEL, WASHINGTON DC

JUNE 10

8:00 am - 8:30 am

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Plenary Session***Welcome***

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Representative
Kevin Coyle, President, National Environmental Education and Training
 Foundation

Opening Remarks

Representative, American Association of Medical Colleges
Representative, American Association of Colleges of Nursing

Initiative Overview

Kevin Keaney, Chief, Certification & Worker Protection Branch, Office
 of Pesticides Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Goals and Objectives

Leyla Erk McCurdy, Senior Director, National Environmental Education
 and Training Foundation

***Making the Case: The Need to Improve Health Care Provider
 Education and Practice***

Lynn Goldman MD, MPH, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
 (invited)

Daniel Goldstein, MD, Monsanto Company (invited)

Philip Landrigan, MD, MSc, Mount Sinai School of Medicine (invited)

10:40 am - 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Plenary Session (Continued)***Project Overviews******National Guidelines for Competencies and Practice Skills***

Andrea Lindell, DNSc, Dean, University of Cincinnati, College of
 Nursing

Audience Assessment Pilot Project

John Balbus MD, MPH, Principal Investigator

Pesticide Resources, Tools and Information Gateway

Mark Robson, PhD, MPH, University of New Jersey, School of Public Health

3/5/03

*Brian West, ClickImpact****Action Agenda for Incorporating Environmental Health into Pediatric Medical and Nursing Education Standards****Jerome Paulson, MD, George Washington University Medical Center and Children's Environmental Health Network*

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Lunch & Key Note Address*Kenneth Olden PhD, Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (invited)*

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Concurrent Workshops***Education Settings******Practice Settings******Resources and Tools***

In order to keep group size small enough to facilitate productive discussion, concurrent workshops will be offered on the same topic. Successful models will be presented briefly by guest speakers, but the majority of the time will be devoted to developing strategies to move the Initiative forward. Each break out session will be facilitated by a Federal Interagency Planning Committee member and will be assisted by a note taker. The session notes will be used to report on the group discussions the next day and for the conference report.

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Refreshment Break

3:45 pm - 5:30 pm

Concurrent Workshops Continued

5:30 pm

Adjourn

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Reception**JUNE 11**

8:00 am - 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

8:30 am - 11:00 am

Plenary Session***The Initiative and Public/Private Partnerships****Richard Jackson, MD, MPH, Director, National Center for Environmental Health (invited)**Bonnie Rogers, DrPH, COHN-S, LNCC, University of North Carolina School of Public Health (invited)****Workshop Reports and Discussion****Facilitator*

11:15am - 11:30 am

Break

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Closing Session***Where Do We Go From Here?***

12:30 pm

Adjourn