



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

JUL - 6 2007

Robert Driscoll
Chief Executive Officer
Mirant Mid-Atlantic, LLC
8301 Professional Place, Suite 230
Landover, Maryland 20785

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

Thank you for your letter of June 20, 2007, and your comments on the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)'s Exposure Investigation (EI) Protocol for the Mirant site. As you know, ATSDR has accepted a request from Dr. Charles Konigsberg, Health Director of the Alexandria Health Department, to review existing air quality and other environmental data related to operations at Mirant. The EI is a component of our public health evaluations in response to this request.

The EI protocol was peer-reviewed by an external panel of scientists to ensure the use of the best available science for this sampling effort. The comments of the peer reviewers were incorporated into the final protocol prior to its implementation.

In the future, ATSDR will release a public comment version of our Health Consultation document for the Alexandria Health Department. This public comment version will incorporate our evaluation of the sampling data collected during our EI. We will also incorporate relevant comments that you have already shared with us. A final report will be issued after we review and incorporate additional public comments we receive. ATSDR will respond in writing to public comments we receive with the release of the final report.

The comments received from Mirant to date may reflect a misunderstanding of the nature and intent of the EI. The information collected during the EI will not be used as a stand-alone assessment. The data collected will be used with all other available data to arrive at conclusions and recommendations to protect public health. The purpose of the EI is to collect accurate and actual ambient air data for sulfur dioxide, as the contaminant of most public health concern for short-term exposures. EI monitors have been located in populated areas to reflect exposures to residents. Because existing modeling and monitoring results for this site have been inconsistent, ATSDR conceived this EI to determine if additions to the existing monitoring network (in both location and in types of data collected) would aid in the determination of a more realistic and scientifically defensible assessment of potential health impacts than currently available. In addition to sulfur dioxide, ATSDR is also collecting data on particulate matter and metals. Although modeling efforts do not indicate that metals are a likely concern, ATSDR would like to confirm this with actual environmental data.

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Thank you for your interest in ATSDR's work at this site. Please contact Lora Siegmann Werner, Senior Regional Representative, ATSDR Region 3, if you would like to discuss this concern further. She can be reached at 215-814-3141, or via email at lkw9@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,



William Cibulas Jr., Ph.D.
CAPT, U.S. Public Health Service
Director
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation

cc:

Charles Konigsberg, Alexandria Health Department
Tom Sinks, NCEH/ATSDR/OD
Bill Cibulas, DHAC/OD
Tina Forrester, DRO
Lora Siegmann Werner, ATSDR Region 3
David Fowler, EISAB
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bcc:

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