{In Archive} Final response to Rep. Hinojosa

Ronald Bergman to: Stacey Dwyer, Philip Dellinger 03/27/2012 10:20 AM

From: Ronald Bergman/DC/USEPA/US
To: Stacey Dwyer/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Archive: This message is being viewed in an archive.

Phil and Stacey,

Here are the final letters sent to Rep. Hinojosa and others on Goliad. We kept them short, as your letter will be the definitive one.

Goliad responses.pdf

00786.pdf

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

MAR 23 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hinojosa:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

I share your concern for the safety of drinking water supplies in our nation. Consistent with that concern, the EPA regulations require that, in order to approve a state's identification of an aquifer or a portion of an aquifer as exempt, the EPA must first determine that it does not currently serve as a source of drinking water (40 CFR 146.4(a)). There are active drinking water wells adjacent and in close proximity to the portion of the aquifer being considered for exemption. In light of this, the EPA is working with the state to obtain the information necessary to evaluate whether the portion of the aquifer Texas proposed for exemption meets the regulatory requirements for the EPA approval.

I want to assure you that EPA officials are working closely with the state and the permit applicant. The agency's Headquarters and Regional officials have met with the applicant, and will continue discussions to work through any issues.

Again, thank you for your letter. The EPA appreciates your concern and interest in our efforts to protect human health and the environment. If you have additional questions, please contact me, or your staff may call Greg Spraul in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-0255.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

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

MAR 23 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Joe Barton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

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Again, thank you for your letter. The EPA appreciates your concern and interest in our efforts to protect human health and the environment. If you have additional questions, please contact me, or your staff may call Greg Spraul in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-0255.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

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

MAR 23 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cuellar:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

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

MAR 23 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Blake Farenthold
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Farenthold:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

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Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

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

MAR 2 3 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Charles A. Gonzalez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

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Nancy K. Stoner
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 23 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Gene Green
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

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Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

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

MAR 23 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hall:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

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

MAR 23 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

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Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

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

MAR 23 2012

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2011, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting clarification on the policy and process for the EPA's consideration of an aquifer exemption under the Underground Injection Control Program at a uranium mining site in Goliad County, Texas.

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