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

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OFFICE OF
CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing today to supplement the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's responses of June 9, August 4, August 22, September 2, September 22, and October 20, to your letters of May 10, and June 2, 2016, requesting certain documents and information regarding the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program.

As we continue to review the documents collected so far, we are now able to produce another set of responsive documents. Please note that portions of your request examine internal deliberations of an Executive Branch agency, the EPA, and, as such, raise a confidentiality interest. In order to identify specific documents in which the EPA has a confidentiality interest, we have added a watermark to these documents that reads "Internal Deliberative Document of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Disclosure Authorized Only to Congress for Oversight Purposes." Through this accommodation, the EPA does not waive any confidentiality interests in these documents or similar documents in other circumstances. The EPA respectfully requests that the Committee and staff protect the documents and the information contained in them from further dissemination. Should the Committee determine that its legislative mandate requires further distribution of this confidential information outside the Committee, we request that such need first be discussed with the agency to help ensure the Executive Branch's confidentiality interests are protected to the fullest extent possible.

You will notice that some of the documents contain redactions of non-responsive or non-substantive material, such as personal privacy information. We redacted this information in a manner that does not obscure the identity of any individuals involved in the relevant communications.

The EPA recognizes the importance of the Committee's need to obtain information necessary to perform its legitimate oversight functions, and is committed to continuing to work with your staff on how best to accommodate the Committee's interests in the documents requested in your letter.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Tom Dickerson in my office at dickerson.tom@epa.gov or (202) 564-3638.

Sincerely,

Nichole Distefano
Associate Administrator

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member