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

APR 18 2017

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Jennifer McPartland
Senior Scientist
Richard Denison
Lead Senior Scientist
Environmental Defense Fund
1875 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 600
Washington DC 20009

Re: Request for extension of comment periods: Trichloroethylene; Regulation of Vapor Degreasing Under TSCA § 6(a) (docket ID EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0387) and Methylene Chloride and N-Methylpyrrolidone; Regulation of Certain Uses Under TSCA § 6(a) (docket ID EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0231)

Dear Dr. McPartland and Dr. Denison:

Thank you for your letter of April 5, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requesting that the Agency not extend the comment periods for the proposed rules on the use of trichloroethylene in vapor degreasing (RIN 2070-AK11) and uses of methylene chloride and N-methylpyrrolidone in paint and coating removal (RIN 2070-AK07) by 120 days to August 17, 2017, as other commenters have requested.

We appreciate your participation in the comment process, and recognize your request to maintain the current comment periods. However, in the interest of receiving comprehensive public comments for the benefit of the current rules, we have decided to extend the comment periods for 30 days, until May 19, 2017. The Agency believes this extension of 30 days beyond the current comment periods of 90 days will not create delays in subsequent administrative steps related to either the current or future rule proposals and will be sufficient for receiving additional comments.

Any questions regarding this response should be directed to Joel Wolf at (202) 564-0432.

Sincerely,

Wendy C Hamnett

Wendy Cleland-Hamnett
Acting Assistant Administrator

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