UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
National Center for Environmental Assessment
Washington, DC 20460

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

October 31, 2017

Karl Brooks, J.D., Ph.D.
8 Chaparral Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Dear Dr. Brooks,

Thank you for your October 19, 2017 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program and the Request for Correction on the IRIS assessment of chloroprene. The Administrator directed the letter to me for response.

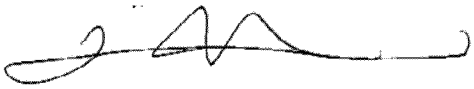
As you know, the Agency's 2010 IRIS assessment of chloroprene was developed while adhering to the rigorous standards of IRIS, including public comment and extensive review by experts within EPA, from other Federal agencies and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and by a panel of independent expert peer reviewers. We are currently reviewing Denka Performance Elastomer's (DPE) Request for Correction (RFC) and are following all processes and procedures as specified by the Information Quality Act. At the request of the Administrator's staff we recently had a listening session with DPE representatives and the EPA Office of Environmental Information and EPA Office of General Counsel, that provided an opportunity for DPE to present highlights of the RFC and for EPA staff to ask clarifying questions about the RFC. As you are also aware, the RFC process is closely monitored by OMB. We agree that rigorous commitment to the Agency's scientific integrity policies is critical to ensuring that the best-available science informs Agency decision-making.

We have contacted the Office of Environmental Information (OEI), who manages the Request for Correction process. I can confirm that the September 8, 2017 Objection you submitted has been made publicly available on the RFC Third Party Correspondence website at https://www.epa.gov/quality/re-rfc-17002-objection-denka-performance-elastomer-llcs-denka-request-correction-epa-rfc. In order for correspondence to be posted to the third party correspondence website managed by OEI, it must be submitted to the Agency through the EPA Quality mailbox (as done with your previous objection).

Finally, we will be briefing staff from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to both clarify the RFC process as it pertains to IRIS assessments and to demonstrate our commitment to scientific integrity. To further allay their concerns regarding IRIS, I will also inform them that EPA has requested that the National Academies convene a public meeting and independently review the status of the IRIS Program. The NAS will convene a committee in 2018, and issue a consensus report within six months.

Thank you again for your input, as well as your past service to the Agency.

Sincerely,



Tina Bahadori, M.Sc., Sc.D.
Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment
Nation Program Director, Human Health Risk Assessment
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency