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SUBJECT: **Follow Up of My Letter to You Dated March 18, 2019 Addressing Toxic Chemicals Found at the Sky Valley Education Center, Monroe, Washington**

Dear Mr. Gamble:

Since my first letter to you, you have released the complete set of data produced by Environmental Health and Engineering, Inc. ("EHE"), generated from sampling and collection that occurred at the Sky Valley Education Center ("SVEC"), Monroe, Washington, during January 2019. The document containing that information, **ATTACHMENT 1**, is complete, and addresses the issues raised by agency scientists in terms of documentation for what was presented.

These data need to be examined carefully, and in light of the fact that the new samples collected in January 2019 followed extensive cleaning by the school district in December 2018, and regular cleaning during and after January 2016.

ATTACHMENT 2 is a table summarizing the sampling results from January 2019, prepared by EHE Principal Scientist Kevin Coghlan. Polychlorinated biphenyls ("PCBs"), polychlorinated dibenzodioxins ("PCDDs"), and polychlorinated dibenzofurans ("PCDFs") were analyzed, and results are summarized and reported for each sample taken.

Some results are extremely high, relative to background levels of these materials reported in Washington state by their Department of Ecology, as discussed in my earlier letter. Two sample results, for PCDD and PCDF toxic equivalency are very important for any agency assigned to protect public health or environmental contamination are Transmitted Sample ID

187060, for classroom 20 at SVEC and Transmitted Sample ID 187063, for classroom 11.

Each sample was taken from the dust on the inlet filter side of the unit ventilator in its respective classroom, either room #11 or room #20. Each result was reported at 1,330 nanograms per kilogram dust (of PCDD/PCDF toxic equivalents), or 1,330 parts per trillion toxic equivalents PCDD/PCDF. You may remember from my earlier letter that the Washington State Department of Ecology reported background outdoor levels of PCDD/PCDF toxic equivalents around 1 (0.062 – 1.9, geometric mean toxic equivalents, parts per trillion) and about 1 -100 PCDD/PCDF toxic equivalents (1.9 – 114.7, range, parts per trillion). The school dust values on the intake of the unit ventilators were a hundred to a thousand times higher than levels measured by the State Agency looking at PCDD and PCDF contamination statewide.

The most disturbing part about these incredibly high/contaminated levels of highly toxic compounds is that they represent dust that has only accumulated since the last filter change. EHE indicates, and provides photographic evidence, **ATTACHMENT 3**, that the filters were changed in the unit ventilators for at least those two rooms on July 12, 2018. So, between that date and January 3, 2019, when these two samples were collected, some exceptionally highly contaminated PCDD/PCDF dust was generated in the classrooms and collected on the filter faces. The dust could only have come from some as yet unidentified reservoir(s) of those materials still present in the school. If that occurred while children were present, then they were exposed. If that occurred while maintenance personnel were cleaning up the classrooms, in preparation for outside visitors inspecting the school and collecting samples, then they were potentially exposed.

In either case, human beings, including sensitive young children, were exposed to dust with exceptionally high levels of highly toxic chemicals that are or should have been highly regulated. I repeat what I strongly requested in my first letter to you: Cognizant Washington State, and federal environmental and health agencies must thoroughly evaluate these data.

Furthermore, in doing so, these same agencies should consider that SVEC is not a school in total isolation. Many schools in many districts have used fluorescent light fixtures. And older ones had ballasts containing PCBs, and many ballasts failed releasing PCBs, PCDDs, and PCDFs into room environments with teachers, students, maintenance personnel,

visitors, who would have been exposed to these highly toxic chemicals. Poor or inadequate school district maintenance practices could have resulted in the repeat of SVEC's exposure debacle many times over. Agencies should consider testing other schools in other districts for PCDDs and PCDFs, even if PCBs were measured there and deemed to be at a low level. The former compounds are hundreds or thousands of times more potent toxicants than the PCBs that could have been measured and may still be present.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Faeder

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Attachments (3)

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