



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

JUL 11 2011

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

July 08, 2011

Mr. David M. Newman, M.A., M.S.  
NYCOSH Industrial Hygienist  
116 John Street, Suite 604  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Mr. Newman:

As you may know, on May 31, 1979, EPA promulgated regulations that implemented the 1978 Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) ban imposed by Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA).<sup>6</sup> Since the original and ensuing rulemaking efforts related to the use and distribution of PCB products in 1979, the EPA has attempted to protect human health and the environment through a variety of printed materials, guidance websites, and the provision of remediation consultation with EPA's regional offices. EPA has consistently attempted to work with stakeholders to find economically feasible means to reduce the risk of exposure to PCBs, such as those found in caulk. At present, EPA is testing the effectiveness of various encapsulation methods, hoping that a greater understanding of how to reduce exposure to PCBs in caulk will be discovered.

EPA's most recent action towards reducing the risk of exposure to PCBs is through the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM). This notice states EPA is reassessing PCB use and distribution authorizations, including the remediation of caulk with PCBs. EPA values your thoughtful response to the ANPRM. Since the release of the ANPRM, the EPA has decided the actions proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be realized through two separate rules. Actions related to PCBs in caulk will be considered during the rulemaking process for the second of these rules, so that we can continue to research remediation techniques.

The remarks provided by various stakeholders during the ANPRM comment period, including your own, have been taken into account. Our efforts to reduce the risk of exposure to caulk have been more relevant to many populations due to the input and suggestions received from the public.

While PCBs in caulk will not be addressed immediately through the first rulemaking, EPA would like to enhance our existing guidance on remediation techniques for PCBs in caulk, if necessary. EPA requests your assistance in evaluating the current guidance materials on the best approaches for reducing exposure and potential risks associated with PCBs in caulk. I would ask that you review our existing materials that

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. EPA. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution in Commerce, and Use Prohibitions; Final Rule. **Federal Register** (44 FR 31514, May 31, 1979).

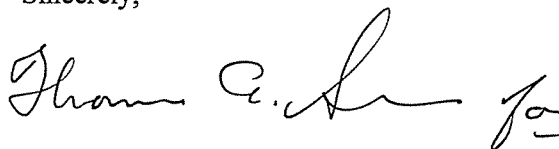
can be found on our caulk web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pcbs/pubs/caulk/caulkcontractors.htm>.

We request that you provide comments on the usefulness and usability of the website as well as provide any specifics on areas that we should add. EPA appreciates your consideration and assistance in helping us to reduce the risk of exposure to PCBs in caulk. If possible, we would like to receive your comments within the next month.

Thank you again for your interest in our work on PCBs in caulk. Please send comments to:  
Simons.tom@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Vendinello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Lynn Vendinello, Chief  
Fibers and Organics Branch  
National Program Chemicals Division