
State Water Resources Control Board

March 29, 2012

Jeff Wong, Ph.D.
Office of the Chief Scientist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Dr. Wong:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW FOR SAFER CONSUMER PRODUCTS REGULATIONS

I am pleased to respond to your request for scientific peer-reviewers for the subject noted above. The University of California, with whom Cal/EPA has an Interagency Agreement to identify reviewer candidates, contacted scientists it considered qualified to perform the assignment.

Each candidate who was both interested and available for the review period was asked to complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure form and send it to me for review. In follow-up communications with selected candidates, I asked for certain clarifications and affirmation there is nothing in their background: a) that might be reasonably construed by others as affecting their judgment, and b) which might constitute an actual or potential source of bias. They also were asked to affirm they would be able to perform an objective and independent review.

Drs. Farland, Gray, and Renn served as approved external reviewers for the previous draft of the current proposed regulation. The University agreed to their participation again. I contacted each and asked for updated Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms and Curriculum Vitae. After review, I asked them to provide clarifications where necessary, and affirmations as before, the same as I requested from the new candidates, before approving them again as reviewers.

Reviewers Approved:

- a) William H. Farland, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Professor

Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences
Colorado State University
203 Administration
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-2001
Telephone: (970) 491-7194
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E-mail: William.Farland@ColoState.edu

- b) George M. Gray, Ph.D.
Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Director, Center for Risk Science and Public Health
George Washington University
School of Public Health and Health Sciences
2100 M Street, NW; Suite 203A
Washington, District of Columbia 20037
Telephone: (202) 994-7993
Fax: (202) 994-0011
E-mail : gmgray@gwu.edu
- c) Ortwin Renn, Ph.D.
Chair, Environmental Sociology and Technology Assessment
Scientific Director, Interdisciplinary Research Unit on Risk, Governance and Sustainable Technology Development (ZIRN)
University of Stuttgart, DE
Seidenstr. 36, 70174 Stuttgart
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E-mail: ortwin.renn@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de
- d) Dale B. Hattis, Ph.D.
Research Professor
George Perkins Marsh Institute
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Telephone: (508) 751-4603
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Email: dhattis@clark.edu
- e) Deborah H. Bennett, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Public Health Services
University of California
One Shields Avenue, 118 MS1-C
Davis, California 95616
Telephone: (530) 754-8282
Email: dhbennet@ucdavis.edu

- f) Jennifer Beth Sass, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist
Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, District of Columbia 20005

Telephone: (202) 289-2362
Email: jsass@nrdc.org

Curriculum Vitae are attached.

Contacting Reviewers. Contact the reviewers immediately. Tell them you have just learned of their identity, and when to expect review material. Keep them informed of delays, and ensure new dates are acceptable. Include me as a “cc” on communications indicating delays.

Initiating the Review. Send the reviewers a cover letter with the following:

- a) original letter of request for reviewers and attachments, which was sent to them by the University during the solicitation process;
- b) Key Document(s) for Review;
- c) Key Supporting Documents.

Essential Directions. Tell your reviewers in the cover letter:

- a) **Follow the review guidance provided in the initial letter of request for reviewers, Attachment 2.**
- b) **Address all topics listed in Attachment 2, as expertise allows, in the order given.**

An example of a cover letter initiating the review is attached. It is not confidential at this point. All communications related to that review have been posted at the State and Regional Water Board’s peer review website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/peer_review/

Please send me a copy of the cover letter.

Revisions. If you have revised any part of the initial request, stamp “Revised” on each page where a change has been made, and date of the change. Clearly describe the revision in the cover letter. Reviewers must be made aware of changes.

Circumstance where an entire document is replaced by an updated version. Simply put the replacement – with new cover date – in its designated attachment location, and refer to the substitution in the cover letter with reference to date of the replacement.

Mode of Transmission. Review material frequently is sent electronically. Hard copy is recommended for lengthy documents and those with fold-out charts and tables. Confirm electronic and hard copies have been received by reviewers.

Confidentiality of the Review Process. Approved reviewers were sent the attached January 7, 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines. Please read it carefully. In part it provides guidance to ensure confidentiality through the peer review process. Reviewers must keep their identities confidential, and I ask that you do also to avoid compromising the external review.

Communication Restrictions. Communications between reviewers and requesting organizations are restricted to questions of clarification. Both enquiries and responses must be in writing (email is fine). If you prefer, all communications can be routed through me.

Contacts by Outside Parties. After reviews have been submitted, the Supplement notes reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third parties, and we recommend they do not.

All outside parties are provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action through a well-defined rulemaking process. Ask your reviewers to direct third parties to you, or a designated staff person, with comments or suggestions in writing.

Completed Reviews. These are to be sent directly to the person signing the letter initiating the review, unless directed otherwise.

If I can provide additional help, contact me at any time during the review process.

Sincerely,



Gerald W. Bowes, Ph.D., Manager
Cal/EPA Scientific Peer Review Program
Office of Research, Planning and Performance

Attachments (8)

1. Curriculum Vitae – William H. Farland, Ph.D.
2. Curriculum Vitae – George M. Gray, Ph.D.
3. Curriculum Vitae – Ortwin Renn, Ph.D.
4. Curriculum Vitae – Dale B. Hattis, Ph.D.
5. Curriculum Vitae – Deborah H. Bennett, Ph.D.
6. Curriculum Vitae – Jennifer Beth Sass, Ph.D.
7. Example of Letter Initiating Review
8. Supplement to Cal/EPA External Scientific Peer Review Guidelines