
State Water Resources Control Board

January 17, 2012

Sent via FedEx

Professor John Little
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
418 Durham Hall
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0246

Dear Professor Little,

PEER REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED LOW-THREAT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) POLICY

I have been asked to continue managing the external scientific peer review of the subject noted above. Staff will not communicate with the approved reviewers, such as yourself, nor know their identities, until I formally transmit the reviews to them.

My letter today is intended to initiate the next phase of the external review – the actual review itself.

Included with this letter are the following key documents:

- a) The final request for external reviewers, addressed to me, signed by Kevin Graves, DWQ, including eight attachments; and,
- b) January 7, 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines.

Comments on the foregoing (a-b):

1. You were sent the original request letter during the solicitation process for reviewer candidates, conducted by the University of California. The letter was dated November 29, 2011, and did not include Attachments 5-8. The attached letter is identical, dated December 8, 2011, and is the final request with all attachments included. Attachment 8 is a CD containing all references.
2. Attachment 2 to the request letter provides focus for the review. I ask that you

address all topics, as expertise allows, in the order listed.

3. The January 7, 2009 Supplement – you received this earlier when I approved you as a reviewer. I am sending it again to make certain that you have it. In part, it provides guidance to ensure the review is kept confidential through its course. The Supplement notes reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third-parties after reviews have been submitted. We recommend they do not. All outside parties are provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action through a well-defined regulatory process. Direct third parties to Kevin Graves, UST Program Manager, the person who signed the request letter.

Please return your review directly to me. Questions about the review, or review material, should be for clarification, in writing – email is fine, and addressed to me. My responses will be in writing also. The State Water Board should not be contacted. I will subsequently forward all reviews together with reviewers' CVs. All this information will be posted at the UST program web site, and the State and Regional Water Boards' Scientific Peer Review website.

Please return your review to me no later than February 13, 2012.

Your acceptance of this review assignment is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Bowes, Ph.D.
Manager, Cal/EPA Scientific Peer Review Program
Office of Research, Planning and Performance
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street, MS-16B
Sacramento, California 95814

Telephone: (916) 341-5567
Facsimile: (916) 341-5284
Email: GBowes@waterboards.ca.gov

bc:

GB/ggj
December 21, 2011
document5
ECM#