



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 3 2001

OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Mr. Jim J. Tozzi  
Center for Regulatory Effectiveness  
11 Dupont Circle, N.W.  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Tozzi:

Thank you for your letter of June 28, 2001, expressing your concerns about the accuracy of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) April 6, 2001, *Federal Register* notice to solicit applications from State agencies for grant funds to address greenhouse gas releases.

EPA strives to provide an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the science related to climate change to the public. We have carefully reviewed your suggestions regarding EPA publications, public notices, and Web pages related to either the potential causes or effects of global climate change, and we appreciate your concerns and your comments. You have made two specific requests of EPA regarding these documents. Our response to each request follows.

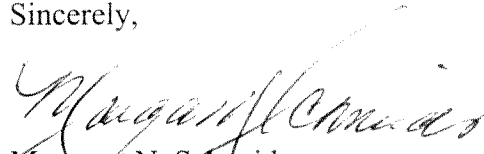
1. *"Correct deficiencies in the April 6 Federal Register notice."* We appreciate your suggestions for improving the language that was used in the Background section of this Federal Register Request for Proposals. However, we received your letter too late to justify making any correction to the Notice. The correction may not have reached the full audience of the original notice and, very likely, could not have been published prior to the Request for Proposals' application due date. Further, because the language in question was confined to only several paragraphs in the Notice's Background section, we feel that a correction would have altered neither the interest expressed by state agencies nor the proposals received in response to the Request.
2. *"Include, routinely in all future EPA public information products about global climate change, an alert to readers concerning scientific uncertainties."* You made the same request in past correspondence concerning the Internet Web pages associated with the EPA Global Warming Site. You are now extending the request to include all future documents related to the potential causes or effects of global climate change.

With respect to directing the Office of Air and Radiation to further qualify its statements and findings, I am confident in the quality of the Agency's documents that address climate change and related issues. EPA's climate-related publications typically

summarize the results of peer reviewed science and make every attempt to accurately report the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Academy of Sciences. The difficulty with a routine statement is that not all aspects of the science are equally uncertain. As stated on the Global Warming Site's Uncertainties page, "Like many fields of scientific study, there are uncertainties with the science of global warming. This does not imply that all things are equally uncertain. Some aspects of the science are based on *well-known* physical laws and documented trends, while other aspects range from '*near certainty*' to '*big unknowns*!." EPA believes it is appropriate to continue our practice of providing *for each issue* an accurate explanation that reflects relative uncertainties.

Thank you again for your interest in these issues and your suggestions for improving the quality of the products distributed by EPA.

Sincerely,



Margaret N. Schneider  
Acting Assistant Administrator

cc: Brooks Owen, CRE