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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2007

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Mr. John B. Stephenson
Director, Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Stephenson:

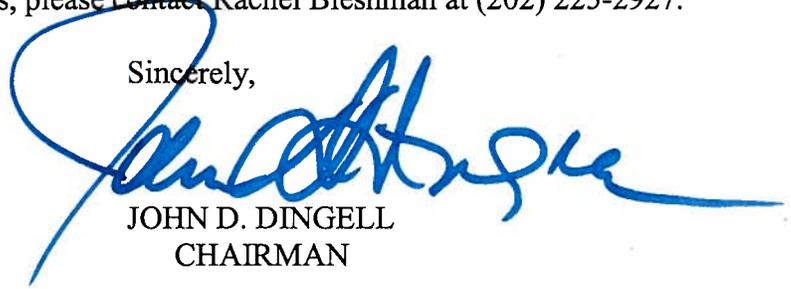
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at the hearing entitled "Perchlorate: Health and Environmental Impacts of Unregulated Exposure." We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the subcommittee.

Under the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open to permit Members to submit additional questions to the witnesses. Attached are questions directed to you from certain Members of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your response to the Member who has submitted the questions and include the text of the Member's question along with your response.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, your responses to these questions should be received no later than the close of business on July 20, 2007. Your written responses should be delivered to 2125 Rayburn House Office Building and faxed to (202) 225-2899 to the attention of Rachel Bleshman. An electronic version of your response should also be sent by e-mail to Ms. Bleshman at rachel.bleshman@mail.house.gov. Please send your response in a single Word or WordPerfect formatted document.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Rachel Bleshman at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Albert Wynn, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials

The Honorable John Shimkus, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials

The Honorable Joe Barton and the Honorable John Shimkus

1. Your report on perchlorate mentioned that you reviewed 92 studies that examined the health effects of perchlorate and only 44 offered conclusions or observations about whether perchlorate had an adverse health effect, and 25 of these studies suggested an adverse health effect. What did these other 48 studies conclude then? Why, in your assessment, is there such a wide range of numbers and conclusions?
2. In your assessment of perchlorate contamination found by site, you mention that while 28% of contamination stems from DOD and NASA industries, 27% is naturally occurring. Can you further expand on how perchlorate is naturally occurring and what you estimate this means to cleanup efforts?
3. How would adopting an MCL affect cleanup of hits from unexplained sources? Who would be responsible for such cleanup, and what funding mechanism would EPA suggest for such cleanup?