FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115

Majority (202) 225–2927
Minority (202) 225–3641

July 6, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is examining the management of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) grant programs, and specifically those grants awarded to foreign recipients. Today, we write in reference to our June 27, 2011, letter requesting information on certain grants to foreign recipients, the criteria for their selection, and the foreseeable benefits (or lack thereof) to be obtained therefrom for the American people. Since the date of the initial letter, Committee staff has identified additional concerns with the EPA's grant management practices for which we seek clarification.

In preparing the June 27, 2011, Memorandum documenting the Committee's preliminary findings[1] on EPA's foreign grant programs, Committee staff made extensive use of EPA's Grant Awards Database[2] as well as other information available on the EPA website. We are concerned that the database provides neither a complete record of EPA grants awarded or committed to in recent years nor the applicable statutory authorities under which those grants are conferred – in our view, two rather crucial missing details. For instance:

- The database identifies a September 30, 2010, award of $15,000 to KPBB-Joint Committee for Leaded Gasoline Phase-Out to "establish a stakeholders group to provide

[1] See http://republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/Media/file/PDFs/062711MajMemorandum.pdf for the memorandum and http://republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/Media/file/PDFs/062711EPAs.pdf for the accompanying attachment.
[2] http://yosemite.epa.gov/oarm/igms_egf.nsf/HomePage?ReadForm.

input for 'Breathe Easy, Jakarta,' a new partnership between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the government of Jakarta, Indonesia to improve air quality management." However, an EPA press release dated February 23, 2010, announces this partnership as well as EPA's "initial investment of $450,000 to launch this initiative" and notes that "[o]ne of the first steps in launching 'Breathe Easy, Jakarta' will be to create a stakeholders group to determine key priorities and develop a strategy."[3] A database search of recipients, including KPBB or other Indonesian entities or projects, does not readily produce information concerning the interim status and/or final disposition of the $435,000 in residual funds referred to as EPA's "initial investment" as set out in the February 23, 2010, press release.

- Although the summary record for each grant contains a field labeled "Authority" which should contain the law or statute which authorizes the particular grant, neither in the aforementioned example nor in many other cases of foreign recipients that Committee staff has reviewed is the applicable authority actually listed. As the steward of approximately $10 billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars annually, around half of which is allocated to its grant programs, it is important that the EPA acknowledge the legal or statutory authority under which a particular grant or cooperative agreement is made.

In order to give the Committee a better understanding of the criteria used by EPA in its award of grants to foreign recipients, as well as any benefit obtained as a result of the awarding of such grants, we ask that you provide responses to the following questions and requests by July 19, 2011:

1. What is the status of the $435,000 in residual funds apparently committed under EPA's "initial investment" in the "Breathe Easy, Jakarta" program?

   a. What additional portion (beyond the $15,000 listed on the EPA's website), if any, of the $450,000 initial investment has been paid out as of this date to any recipient under this grant? Who were the recipients of those monies?

   b. EPA's February 23, 2010, press release suggests that beyond its initial investment, EPA intends "to provide technical assistance and training for developing air quality monitoring and emissions inventories." Please describe any additional grant awards EPA anticipates making on behalf of the "Breathe Easy, Jakarta" program beyond the $450,000 initial investment.

2. For each grant awarded since February 17, 2009, to a foreign recipient or to a domestic recipient for use in carrying out a project abroad, please provide the statutory authorities under which the grant has been conferred.

---

3 http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/8b770facf5edf6f185257359003fb69e/f6c748cac851949b852576d3007e2875!OpenDocument.

An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Committee's request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Sam Spector with the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Chairman

Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

RESPONDING TO COMMITTEE DOCUMENT REQUESTS

In responding to the document request, please apply the instructions and definitions set forth below:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In complying with this request, you should produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control or otherwise available to you, regardless of whether the documents are possessed directly by you.

2. Documents responsive to the request should not be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.

3. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual named in the request has been, or is currently, known by any other name, the request should be read also to include such other names under that alternative identification.

4. Each document should be produced in a form that may be copied by standard copying machines.

5. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph(s) and/or clause(s) in the Committee's request to which the document responds.

6. Documents produced pursuant to this request should be produced in the order in which they appear in your files and should not be rearranged. Any documents that are stapled, clipped, or otherwise fastened together should not be separated. Documents produced in response to this request should be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when this request was issued. Indicate the office or division and person from whose files each document was produced.

7. Each folder and box should be numbered, and a description of the contents of each folder and box, including the paragraph(s) and/or clause(s) of the request to which the documents are responsive, should be provided in an accompanying index.

8. Responsive documents must be produced regardless of whether any other person or entity possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same document.

9. The Committee requests electronic documents in addition to paper productions. If any of the requested information is available in machine-readable or electronic form (such as on a computer server, hard drive, CD, DVD, back up tape, or removable computer media such as thumb drives, flash drives, memory cards, and external hard drives), you should immediately consult with Committee staff to determine the appropriate format in which to produce the information. Documents produced in electronic format should be organized, identified, and indexed electronically in a manner comparable to the organizational structure called for in (6) and (7) above.

10. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, or has been placed into the possession, custody, or control of any third party and cannot be provided in response to this request, you should identify the document (stating its date, author, subject and recipients) and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control, or was placed in the possession, custody, or control of a third party.

11. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody or control, state:

a. how the document was disposed of;
b. the name, current address, and telephone number of the person who currently has possession, custody or control over the document;
c. the date of disposition;
d. the name, current address, and telephone number of each person who authorized said disposition or who had or has knowledge of said disposition.

12. If any document responsive to this request cannot be located, describe with particularity the efforts made to locate the document and the specific reason for its disappearance, destruction or unavailability.

13. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document, communication, meeting, or other event is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, you should produce all documents which would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.

14. The request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly discovered document, regardless of the date of its creation. Any document not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date should be produced immediately upon location or discovery subsequent thereto.

15. All documents should be bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially. In a cover letter to accompany your response, you should include a total page count for the entire production, including both hard copy and electronic documents.

16. Two sets of the documents should be delivered to the Committee, one set to the majority staff in Room 316 of the Ford House Office Building and one set to the minority staff in Room 564 of the Ford House Office Building. You should consult with Committee majority staff regarding the method of delivery prior to sending any materials.

17. In the event that a responsive document is withheld on any basis, including a claim of privilege, you should provide the following information concerning any such document: (a) the reason the document is not being produced; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author and addressee; (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each

other; and (f) any other description necessary to identify the document and to explain the basis for not producing the document. If a claimed privilege applies to only a portion of any document, that portion only should be withheld and the remainder of the document should be produced. As used herein, "claim of privilege" includes, but is not limited to, any claim that a document either may or must be withheld from production pursuant to any statute, rule, or regulation.

18. If the request cannot be complied with in full, it should be complied with to the extent possible, which should include an explanation of why full compliance is not possible.

19. Upon completion of the document production, you should submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control which reasonably could contain responsive documents; (2) documents responsive to the request have not been destroyed, modified, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee since the date of receiving the Committee's request or in anticipation of receiving the Committee's request, and (3) all documents identified during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee, identified in a privilege log provided to the Committee, as described in (17) above, or identified as provided in (10), (11) or (12) above.

DEFINITIONS

1. The term "document" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, interoffice and intra-office communications, electronic mail ("e-mail"), instant messages, calendars, contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, power point presentations, spreadsheets, and work sheets. The term "document" includes all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments to the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto. The term "document" also means any graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, voice mails, microfiche, microfilm, videotapes, recordings, and motion pictures), electronic and mechanical records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, computer server files, computer hard drive files, CDs, DVDs, back up tape, memory sticks, recordings, and removable computer media such as thumb drives, flash drives, memory cards, and external hard drives), and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, electronic format, disk, videotape or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not part of the original text is considered to be a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.

2. The term "documents in your possession, custody or control" means (a) documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, or representatives acting on your behalf; (b) documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access; and (c) documents that have been placed in the possession, custody, or control of any third party.

3. The term "communication" means each manner or means of disclosure, transmission, or exchange of information, in the form of facts, ideas, opinions, inquiries, or otherwise, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether face-to-face, in a meeting, by telephone, mail, e-mail, instant message, discussion, release, personal delivery, or otherwise.

4. The terms "and" and "or" should be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes the plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.

5. The terms "person" or "persons" mean natural persons, firms, partnerships, associations, limited liability corporations and companies, limited liability partnerships, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, other legal, business or government entities, or any other organization or group of persons, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, and other units thereof.

6. The terms "referring" or "relating," with respect to any given subject, mean anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject.

7. The terms “you” or “your” mean and refers to

For government recipients:

“You” or “your” means and refers to you as a natural person and the United States and any of its agencies, offices, subdivisions, entities, officials, administrators, employees, attorneys, agents, advisors, consultants, staff, or any other persons acting on your behalf or under your control or direction; and includes any other person(s) defined in the document request letter.