



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 10 2008

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bill Roderick
Deputy Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Roderick:

I am requesting the Inspector General's Office investigate a matter involving Dr. Deborah C. Rice.

It has been brought to my attention (see attached letter) that last year Dr. Rice was one of a number of scientists on an expert panel that was used to peer review an Environmental Protection Agency Integrated Risk Information System assessment regarding the chemical deca-BDE. Deca-BDE is a polybrominated diphenyl ether used as a fire retardant that may also pose risks to public health. According to the attached letter, Dr. Rice was recently removed from this panel.

I would like the Inspector General to:

1. determine whether the removal of Dr. Rice and any actions taken by EPA or Dr. Rice directly related to her removal from this panel were done consistent with existing federal law, regulations, guidance and other relevant requirements;
2. whether the current laws, regulations, guidance and other relevant requirements for such panels are adequate to produce objective scientific reviews; and
3. make recommendations as to how the current system of populating and managing such expert panels could be improved.

Thank you for your assistance regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcus Peacock".

Marcus Peacock

Attachment