

Christine Todd Whitman

May 11, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

RE: Docket No. EPA-HQ-OEM-2015-0725, Accidental Release Prevention Requirements:
Risk Management Programs Under the Clean Air Act

Dear Administrator ^{Gina} McCarthy:

I am writing today to urge EPA to strengthen the above-captioned proposed rule to increase the safety of the American people and reduce the vulnerability of certain chemical facilities to deliberate releases of dangerous chemicals.


I was encouraged that in response to President Obama's August 1, 2013 Executive Order #13650, the EPA on March 14, 2016 proposed that certain high risk chemical plants assess the feasibility of using inherently safer technologies (IST) to reduce the threat to public health and safety as a result of either an accidental or deliberately caused release of hazardous substances into the environment.

Given the long-standing views of both the President and the Vice President on this issue, I would urge EPA to take additional steps to strengthen the proposed rule. Specifically, I recommend the following, which would be consistent with the Administration's position on this issue:

- EPA should require that IST analyses be performed by a broader scope of high-risk facilities, such as water treatment facilities and all chlorine bleach plants, and all of these analyses should be submitted to the EPA. In addition, these analyses should be completed much sooner than the four years called for in the proposed rule;
- Facilities that identify economically and technologically feasible alternatives to current practices should be required to implement those alternatives on a reasonable schedule;
- EPA should work to establish a publicly available source to which facilities could refer that would provide detailed information about safer processes and substances, including information about implementation, cost, cost avoidance, and the efficacy and feasibility of such alternatives.

The use of inherently safer technologies at high-risk chemical facilities has already been adopted at numerous facilities around the nation. It would be most regrettable if in the closing months of the Obama Administration EPA did not use the opportunity that President Obama's Executive Order provides to expand the use of IST, when economically and technologically feasible, to reduce the vulnerability of high risk sites to terrorist attack and to better protect the American people in the event of either an accidental or deliberate release. I urge you to seize this opportunity while it is at hand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. J. W.", with a stylized flourish at the end.