



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

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

TO:

Jennifer Klein

FROM:

Courtney Manning

COMMENTS:

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

June 16, 1997

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM FOR JENNIFER KLEIN

FROM: Courtney Manning

SUBJECT: EPA's AGENDA TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Below please find a brief description of the actions EPA is taking to strengthen the protection of children from environmental health threats. If you would like further information about any of these initiatives please call me at (202) 260-7960.

THE PROBLEM:

Children today face significant and unique health threats from a range of environmental hazards. They are often more heavily exposed and more vulnerable than adults to toxins in the environment, from asthma-exacerbating air pollution and lead-based paint in older homes, to treatment-resistant microbes in drinking water, and to persistent chemicals that may cause cancer or induce reproductive or developmental changes. Children's developing immune and nervous systems can be highly vulnerable to disruption by toxins in the environment and the consequences may be lifelong.

THE RESPONSE:

Recognizing these vulnerabilities, EPA declared in 1996 that children need special protection against environmental toxins. To strengthen the protection of our children from increasingly pervasive environmental health threats, Administrator Browner announced EPA's *National Agenda to Protect Children's Health from Environmental Threats* in September 1996.

In February of this year, the Administrator established a new Office of Children's Health Protection to carry out the Agency's national agenda. The mission of this new office is *to make the protection of children's health a fundamental goal of public health and environmental protection in the United States*. To fulfill this mission and to implement EPA's national agenda, the new office will work together with our partners, within and beyond EPA, to ensure that children receive the protection they need and deserve and to help our nation fulfill its obligation to protect future generations.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

Under the leadership of Dr. Philip Landrigan, a renowned expert on environmental health and pediatrics, EPA's new Office of Children's Health Protection is:

- **Implementing the President's April 1997 Executive Order to Protect Children from Environmental Health and Safety Threats.** The Office is working to ensure that EPA fulfills the requirements of the Executive Order to ensure that new policies, programs, activities or standards address the unique risks to children presented by environmental health or safety threats.

In addition, Administrator Browner and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala will co-chair the President's newly-created *Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children*. The task force will establish a coordinated research agenda, to identify research and other initiatives the Administration will take to advance the protection of children's environmental health and safety, and to enlist public input for these efforts.

- **Fulfilling the Commitments of the 1997 Declaration on Children's Environmental Health.** The office is working to implement this unprecedented Declaration, in which the environment ministers from the G-7 countries, and Russia agreed to take action to protect children worldwide from environmental health hazards.

The proposal which was put forward by Administrator Browner on behalf of the Clinton Administration, was passed at the Environmental Leaders' Summit of the Eight, in Miami, FL in May 1997.

- **Ensuring that EPA health standards are protective of children,** beginning with selecting five of the most significant current EPA standards and establishing procedures for review of new standards as they are developed.
- **Researching and setting new policies on children's susceptibility and exposure to pollutants.** To ensure that all EPA efforts use the best information in developing health protections for children, the new office is working with researchers at EPA, other federal agencies and academic institutions -- to identify and expand research on children's health, and to develop new, comprehensive policies that address children's cumulative and simultaneous exposures to environmental health threats.
- **Expanding community right-to-know and education on children's health.** EPA will carry out a Family Right-to-Know Initiative to expand access to vital information about children's environmental health, so that families can make informed choices concerning environmental exposures to their children.
- **Coordinating children's health issues across EPA,** through a new EPA Board on Children's Environmental Health that will assure integration of EPA regulatory and other actions that affect children's health.

cc: Loretta Ucelli

Pauline M. Abernathy

04/21/97 12:26:01 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP, Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: EXECUTIVE ORDER RE: CHILDREN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FYI

----- Forwarded by Pauline M. Abernathy/OPD/EOP on 04/21/97 12:30 PM -----



STOTT D @ A1

04/21/97 12:17:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: EXECUTIVE ORDER RE: CHILDREN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 21, 1997

EXECUTIVE ORDER

- - - - -

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH RISKS AND SAFETY RISKS

By the authority vested in me as President by the
Constitution and the laws of the United States of America,
it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy.

1-101. A growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates

that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks. These risks arise because: children's neurological, immunological, digestive, and other bodily systems are still developing; children eat more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weight than adults; children's size and weight may diminish their protection from standard safety features; and children's behavior patterns may make them more susceptible to accidents because they are less able to protect themselves. Therefore, to the extent permitted by law and appropriate, and consistent with the agency's mission, each Federal agency:

- (a) shall make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children; and
- (b) shall ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.

1-102. Each independent regulatory agency is encouraged to participate in the implementation of this order and comply with its provisions.

Sec. 2. Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this order.

2-201. "Federal agency" means any authority of the United States that is an agency under 44 U.S.C. 3502(1) other than those considered to be independent regulatory agencies under 44 U.S.C. 3502(5). For purposes of this order, "military departments," as defined in 5 U.S.C. 102, are covered under the auspices of the Department of Defense.

2-202. "Covered regulatory action" means any substantive action in a rulemaking, initiated after the date of this order or for which a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is published 1 year after the date of this order, that is likely to result in a rule that may:

- (a) be "economically significant" under Executive Order 12866 (a rulemaking that has an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or would adversely affect in a material way the economy, a

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sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities); and

- (b) concern an environmental health risk or safety risk that an agency has reason to believe may disproportionately affect children.

2-203. "Environmental health risks and safety risks" mean risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest (such as the air we breath, the food we eat, the water we drink or use for recreation, the soil we live on, and the products we use or are exposed to).

Sec. 3. Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.

3-301. There is hereby established the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children ("Task Force").

3-302. The Task Force will report to the President in consultation with the Domestic Policy Council, the National Science and Technology Council, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

3-303. Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the:

- (a) Secretary of Health and Human Services, who shall serve as a Co-Chair of the Council;
- (b) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, who shall serve as a Co-Chair of the Council;
- (c) Secretary of Education;
- (d) Secretary of Labor;
- (e) Attorney General;
- (f) Secretary of Energy;
- (g) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- (h) Secretary of Agriculture;
- (i) Secretary of Transportation;
- (j) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

- (k) Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality;
- (l) Chair of the Consumer Product Safety Commission;
- (m) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
- (n) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;
- (o) Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
- (p) Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers; and
- (q) Such other officials of executive departments and agencies as the President may, from time to time, designate.

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Members of the Task Force may delegate their responsibilities under this order to subordinates.

3-304. Functions. The Task Force shall recommend to the President Federal strategies for children's environmental health and safety, within the limits of the Administration's budget, to include the following elements:

- (a) statements of principles, general policy, and targeted annual priorities to guide the Federal approach to achieving the goals of this order;
- (b) a coordinated research agenda for the Federal Government, including steps to implement the review of research databases described in section 4 of this order;
- (c) recommendations for appropriate partnerships among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and the private, academic, and nonprofit sectors;
- (d) proposals to enhance public outreach and communication to assist families in evaluating risks to children and in making informed consumer choices;
- (e) an identification of high-priority initiatives that the Federal Government has undertaken or will undertake in advancing protection of children's environmental health and safety; and

- (f) a statement regarding the desirability of new legislation to fulfill or promote the purposes of this order.

3-305. The Task Force shall prepare a biennial report on research, data, or other information that would enhance our ability to understand, analyze, and respond to environmental health risks and safety risks to children. For purposes of this report, cabinet agencies and other agencies identified by the Task Force shall identify and specifically describe for the Task Force key data needs related to environmental health risks and safety risks to children that have arisen in the course of the agency's programs and activities. The Task Force shall incorporate agency submissions into its report and ensure that this report is publicly available and widely disseminated. The Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science and Technology Council shall ensure that this report is fully considered in establishing research priorities.

3-306. The Task Force shall exist for a period of 4 years from the first meeting. At least 6 months prior to the expiration of that period, the member agencies shall assess the need for continuation of the Task Force or its functions, and make appropriate recommendations to the President.

Sec. 4. Research Coordination and Integration.

4-401. Within 6 months of the date of this order, the Task Force shall develop or direct to be developed a review of existing and planned data resources and a proposed plan for ensuring that researchers and Federal research agencies have access to information on all research conducted or funded by the Federal Government that is related to adverse health risks in children resulting from exposure to environmental health risks or safety risks. The National Science and Technology Council shall review the plan.

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4-402. The plan shall promote the sharing of information on academic and private research. It shall include recommendations to encourage that such data, to the extent permitted by law, is available to the public, the scientific and academic communities, and all Federal agencies.

Sec. 5. Agency Environmental Health Risk or Safety Risk Regulations.

5-501. For each covered regulatory action submitted to OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for review pursuant to Executive Order 12866, the issuing agency shall provide to OIRA the following information developed as part of the agency's decisionmaking process, unless prohibited by law:

- (a) an evaluation of the environmental health or safety effects of the planned regulation on children; and
- (b) an explanation of why the planned regulation is preferable to other potentially effective and reasonably feasible alternatives considered by the agency.

5-502. In emergency situations, or when an agency is obligated by law to act more quickly than normal review procedures allow, the agency shall comply with the provisions of this section to the extent practicable. For those covered regulatory actions that are governed by a court-imposed or statutory deadline, the agency shall, to the extent practicable, schedule any rulemaking proceedings so as to permit sufficient time for completing the analysis required by this section.

5-503. The analysis required by this section may be included as part of any other required analysis, and shall be made part of the administrative record for the covered regulatory action or otherwise made available to the public, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 6. Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

6-601. The Director of the OMB ("Director") shall convene an Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics ("Forum"), which will include representatives from the appropriate Federal statistics and research agencies. The Forum shall produce an annual compendium ("Report") of the most important indicators of the well-being of the Nation's children.

6-602. The Forum shall determine the indicators to be included in each Report and identify the sources of data to be used for each indicator. The Forum shall provide an ongoing review of Federal collection and dissemination of data on children and families, and shall make recommendations to improve the coverage and coordination of data collection and to reduce duplication and overlap.

6-603. The Report shall be published by the Forum in collaboration with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The Forum shall present the first annual Report to the President, through the Director, by July 31, 1997. The Report shall be submitted annually thereafter, using the most recently available data.

Sec. 7. General Provisions.

7-701. This order is intended only for internal management of the executive branch. This order is not intended, and should not be construed to create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or

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equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or its employees. This order shall not be construed to create any right to judicial review involving the compliance or noncompliance with this order by the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any other person.

7-702. Executive Order 12606 of September 2, 1987 is revoked.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
April 21, 1997.

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Message Sent To: _____



MANNING.COURTNEY @ EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

06/16/97 05:55:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jennifer L. Klein

cc:

Subject: EPA's Agenda to Protect Children's Health

June 16, 1997

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FROM: Courtney Manning

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knowing environmental exposures to their children.

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