

The Honorable Bob Smith  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your letter of November 28, 2001, regarding the status of Update IVB to EPA publication SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods. I appreciate your interest in making sure that these methods are available for use by the public.

EPA released Update IVB in a notice of availability as requested by Congress during the FY2001 budget appropriations process. Through the notice, EPA made these Agency-reviewed methods immediately available for use by the public. As a result of using the notice, final rulemaking is not needed. Update IVB methods can now be used in virtually all applications where they can be demonstrated to be effective.

Use of Update IVB methods is restricted only in those limited cases where our regulations specify use of prior SW-846 methods. We are working to significantly reduce the number of mandatory applications of SW-846 methods to provide for more flexibility in choosing appropriate and effective methods for environmental analysis and monitoring. These future changes would allow for greater use of any method, including Update IVB methods.

Again, thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me, or your staff may contact Betsy Henry, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-7222

Sincerely yours,

Christine Todd Whitman

RO 14590

The Honorable Jesse Helms  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Helms:

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The Honorable Robin Hayes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Hayes:

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