TO: Todd Thompson, P.E.
Senior Water Resources Control Engineer
Division of Water Quality

Gerald W. Bowes

FROM: Gerald W. Bowes, Ph.D., Manager
Cal/EPA Scientific Peer Review Program
Office of Research, Planning and Performance

DATE: March 27, 2012

SUBJECT: REVIEWERS APPROVED FOR PROPOSED POLICY FOR ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

I am pleased to response to your request for scientific peer-reviewers for the subject noted above. The University of California, with whom Cal/EPA has an Interagency Agreement to identify reviewer candidates, contacted scientists it considered qualified to perform the assignment.

Each candidate who was both interested and available for the review period was asked to complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure form and send it to me for review. In follow-up communications with selected candidates, I asked for certain clarifications and affirmation there is nothing in their background: a) that might be reasonably construed by others as affecting their judgment, and b) which might constitute an actual or potential source of bias. They also were asked to affirm they would be able to perform an objective and independent review.

Reviewers Approved:

a) Ron Crites, P.E.
Senior Associate
Brown and Caldwell, Inc.
1590 Drew Avenue, Suite 210
Davis, California 95618

Telephone: (530) 204-5204
Fax: (530) 297-7148
E-mail: rcrites@brwncald.com

b) Jorg Drewes, Ph.D.
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Colorado School of Mines
Golden, Colorado 80401-1887

Telephone: (303) 273-3401
Fax: (303) 273-3413
E-mail: jdrewes@mines.edu

c) Charles Peter Gerba, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Soli, Water and Environmental Science
University of Arizona
429 Shantz Building
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Telephone: (520) 621-6906
Fax: (520) 621-1647
Email: gerba@ag.arizona.edu

Curriculum Vitae are attached.

Contacting Reviewers. Contact the reviewers immediately. Tell them you have just learned of their identity, and when to expect review material. Keep them informed of delays, and ensure new dates are acceptable. Include me as a "cc" on communications indicating delays.

Initiating the Review. Send the reviewers a cover letter with the following:

a) original letter of request for reviewers and attachments, which was sent to them by the University during the solicitation process;
b) Key Document(s) for Review;
c) Key Supporting Documents.

Essential Directions. Tell your reviewers in the cover letter:

a) Follow the review guidance provided in the initial letter of request for reviewers, Attachment 2.
b) Address all topics listed in Attachment 2, as expertise allows, <u>in the order given.</u>

An example of a cover letter initiating the review is attached. It is not confidential at this point. All communications related to that review have been posted at the State and Regional Water Board's peer review website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/peer_review/

Please send me a copy of the cover letter.

Revisions. If you have revised any part of the initial request, stamp "Revised" on each page where a change has been made, and date of the change. Clearly describe the revision in the cover letter. Reviewers must be made aware of changes.

Circumstances where an entire document is replaced by an updated version, such as the draft policy: Simply put the replacement – with new cover date – in its designated attachment location, and refer to the substitution in the cover letter with reference to date of the replacement.

Mode of Transmission. Review material frequently is sent electronically. Hard copy is recommended for lengthy documents and those with fold-out charts and tables. Confirm electronic and hard copies have been received by reviewers.

Confidentiality of the Review Process. Approved reviewers were sent the attached January 7, 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines. Please read it carefully. In part it provides guidance to ensure confidentiality through the peer review process. Reviewers must keep their identities confidential, and I ask that you do also to avoid compromising the external review.

Communication Restrictions. Communications between reviewers and requesting organizations are restricted to questions of clarification. Both enquiries and responses must be in writing (email is fine). If you prefer, all communications can be routed through me.

Contacts by Outside Parties. After reviews have been submitted, the Supplement notes reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third parties, and we recommend they do not.

All outside parties are provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action through a well-defined rulemaking process. Ask your reviewers to direct third parties to you, or a designated staff person, with comments or suggestions in writing.

Completed Reviews. These are to be sent directly to the person signing the letter initiating the review, unless directed otherwise.

If I can provide additional help, contact me at any time during the review process.

cc: Philip Wyels
Assistant Chief Counsel
Office of the Chief Counsel

Attachments (5)

1. Curriculum Vitae – Ron Crites, P.E.
2. Curriculum Vitae – Jorg Drewes, Ph.D.
3. Curriculum Vitae – Charles Peter Gerba, Ph.D.
4. Example of Letter Initiating Review
5. Supplement to Cal/EPA External Scientific Peer Review Guidelines