

Support for the Alliance for Risk Assessment

Our initial canvassing efforts have indicated incredible support for the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA). We have discussed the goals and operations of the Alliance with over 150 individuals representing academic, environmental, industry, local, state, provincial, tribal, and national interests. Letters of support, project requests, and seed funding we have received clearly demonstrate the interest diverse stakeholders have in the ARA's success. Examples of the feedback we have received are excerpted below.

“The strategy of pooling resources to work toward a common goal certainly resonates, given that dose-response assessment has always suffered from a gross imbalance between resources and workload compounded by parochialism and inefficiency. In fact, adding international agencies to your proposal might also be a good idea, strategically.”

ROY L. SMITH, OFFICE OF AIR QUALITY PLANNING & STANDARDS, UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

“The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has suffered significant budget cuts over the last few years and has limited technical resources. I understand the pressures of trying to find or have access to state-of-the-science information. The ARA, if developed, could provide a viable way for many groups with varied resources to come together and work on common goals regarding emerging contaminants and risk assessment information.”

LUANNE K. WILLIAMS, MEDICAL EVALUATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT UNIT, NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

“As Chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), I wholeheartedly support your efforts to establish the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA). The TCEQ often encounters toxicological and risk assessment issues that are complex and controversial. The idea of having help from a group of prestigious, unbiased scientists such as ARA is exciting. ARA would help ensure that the agency uses good science and would provide more credibility to our decisions.”

KATHLEEN H. WHITE, CHAIRMAN, TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

“The concept is well thought out. If implemented, it could be an invaluable resource to the risk assessment community. We currently take advantage of ITER in our risk management decisions. Also, HANS could be a valuable resource in that it would allow greater transparency throughout the document process. Thus, the scientific community as a whole would have the opportunity to comment.”

CHARLES BARTON, STATE TOXICOLOGIST, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Other organizations and individuals have shown their support by critiquing the ARA, offering invaluable suggestions for making it a more valuable, reliable, and user-friendly tool.

“As EPA privatizes more work, a TRULY independent nonprofit group without industry dependence would be an acceptable substitute. Independence is crucial, in fact without guarantees of independence the project will fail.”
TOXICOLOGIST, CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION

“I see that one of the goals of this proposed process is to enhance consistency. While this is an important goal, I'm wondering whether the process would also be supportive of efforts to develop alternative or novel new risk assessment approaches. For example, I have been considering trying to develop new, probability-based non-cancer risk assessments that use distributions of BMDs or NOAEL/LOAELs, along with distributions of estimates of population sensitivity etc., and where the end result is a probability of adverse non-cancer effect in the population associated with various possible dose levels. No UFs are used. I'm sure I'm not the only person thinking about this...how would and effort like this fit into this coop (or would it)?”
SILENT SPRING

“Don't limit yourselves to risk values. Your co-operative process can be just as valuable for problems in exposure assessment, risk characterization, and risk communication. Isolating just two steps of the risk assessment process effectively marginalizes any potential contribution that co-operation might eventually make. TERA's best-developed skills are hazard ID and dose-response, but you will find that State regulators just might fill your gaps nicely in the other areas.”
JOHN P. CHRISTOPHER, TOXICOLOGIST, CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

As evidenced by the rapid expansion of the chemical inventory of industrialized nations, the introduction of new federal regulations, and the absence of standardized national risk values for many chemicals of potential interest, the demand for toxicology and risk assessment services is growing. With the interest and active participation of diverse stakeholders, the ARA can be an excellent vehicle for advancing the practice of risk assessment using shared resources and a collaborative process to meet tomorrow's public health protection needs.

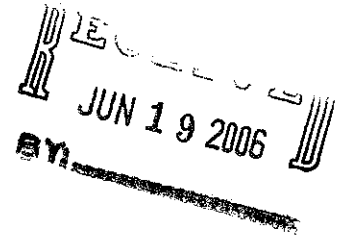
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King, Jr Drive, S.E , Suite 1152 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Protection Division
404/656-4713

June 15, 2006

Dr. Jack Snyder
Associate Director
Division of Specialized Information Services
6707 Democracy Bldv.
Suite 510
Bethesda, MD 20892-5467



Dear Dr. Snyder:

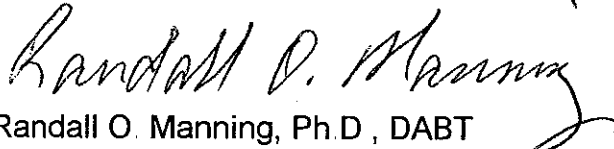
I am writing in support of the proposal that is being developed by Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) for the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA). As you are well aware, TERA has been providing assistance in risk assessment to government agencies and other interested parties for more than 10 years. The ARA has been developed to address significant emerging issues that are faced by many organizations, including state, provincial, tribal and local agencies. These groups often have limitations in funding and/or technical expertise, but must make decisions regarding human health and risk assessment.

The ARA has a number of objectives, all related to increasing the capacity for developing state-of-the-science risk values or risk guidance for emerging contaminants. One of the most significant parts of the ARA concept relates to the innovative approach proposed for developing financial mechanisms for achieving the technical objectives while broadening stakeholder input and conserving resources.

As an employee of a small state environmental agency that has suffered significant budget cuts over the last few years, and has limited technical resources in this area, I understand the pressures of trying to find or have access to state-of-the-science information. The ARA, if developed, could provide a viable way for many groups with varied resources to come together and work on common goals regarding emerging contaminants and risk assessment information.

In conclusion, I strongly support the ARA proposal, and believe that it could provide an important service in advancing risk assessment and conserving ever more limited resources.

Sincerely,

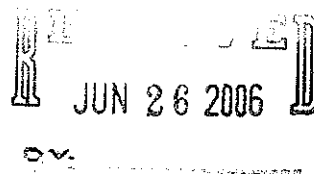
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall O. Manning". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

Randall O. Manning, Ph.D , DABT
Environmental Toxicology Coordinator

cc: Jim Ussery,
Assistant Director, Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Dr. Michael Dourson,
Director, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment

Kathleen Hartnett White, *Chairman*
Larry R. Soward, *Commissioner*
Glenn Shankle, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

June 21, 2006

Dr. Michael L. Dourson, Director
Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment
2300 Montana Avenue
Suite 409
Cincinnati, OH 45211

Dear Dr. Dourson:

As Chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), I wholeheartedly support your efforts to establish the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA). The TCEQ often encounters toxicological and risk assessment issues that are complex and controversial. The idea of having help from a group of prestigious, unbiased scientists such as ARA is exciting. ARA would help ensure that the agency uses good science and would provide more credibility to our decisions.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact Dr. Michael Honeycutt, Manager of the TCEQ's Toxicology Section at mhoneycu@tceq.state.tx.us or 512-239-1793.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen H. White".

Kathleen Hartnett White
Chairman

cc: David C. Schanbacher, P.E., Chief Engineer
Dr. Michael Honeycutt, Manager, Toxicology Section



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Thomas W. Easterly
Commissioner

SEP 24 2006

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
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(800) 451-6027
www.idem.IN.gov

September 20, 2006

Dr. Michael Dourson
Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment
2300 Montana Avenue, Suite 409
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

Re: Midwestern States Risk Assessment Symposium

Dear Dr. Dourson:

I want to express our appreciation for your many contributions to the 2006 Midwestern States Risk Assessment Symposium. Your efforts made it a far more impressive event. Working with organizations such as yours helps to involve a broader spectrum of people, and therefore enhances the quality of the efforts.

We hope that your initiative to start the Alliance for Risk Assessment is successful. This type of collaboration should be very useful to improve the sharing of information and development of interim toxicity values for use while U.S. EPA is working to produce a national standard.

Cooperative efforts between U.S. EPA, state environmental agencies, NGOs, and the private sector help to create an understanding between these groups that enhance future communications and improve the working relationship. This is one of the primary goals of the 2006 Midwestern States Risk Assessment Symposium.

I believe that seeds were planted for many cooperative activities, such as the Alliance for Risk Assessment, and that the positive energy created will carry over to other activities. I feel that you contributed significantly to this effort, and that your participation will result in future successful projects.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Easterly
Commissioner



JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

SEP 26 2006

State of Utah

Department of
Environmental Quality

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

DIVISION OF SOLID AND
HAZARDOUS WASTE
Dennis R. Downs
Director

September 21, 2006

Dr. Jack Snyder
Associate Director
Division of Specialized Information Services National Library of Medicine
6707 Democracy Blvd. Suite 510
Bethesda, MD 20892-5467

Re: Support for the Alliance for Risk Assessment

Dear Dr. Snyder:

I am writing in support of the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA). The ARA is still in the concept phase but it has the potential to function as a valuable resource for state agencies. The ARA will provide a way to coordinate and efficiently use available resources to address unresolved risk assessment issues. The National Library of Medicine's participation in the ARA will ensure that the information generated is readily available to all interested parties. I urge you to support the ARA by making their data available as one of the National Library of Medicine databases.

Thank you for your consideration. If you would like to discuss these issues further, please contact me at 801-538-6170.

Sincerely,

Christopher Bittner, Toxicologist
Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

c: Mike Dourson, TERA



OCT 05 2006

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health • Epidemiology Section
Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology Branch
1912 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1912
Tel 919-707-5900 • Fax 919-870-4810

Michael E. Haasley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odorn, Secretary

September 25, 2006

Dr. Jack Snyder
Associate Director
Division of Specialized Information Services
National Library of Medicine
Suite 510
6707 Democracy Boulevard
Bethesda, MD 20892-5467

Dear Dr. Snyder:

I am a state toxicologist with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. I am writing in support of the proposal that is being developed by Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) for the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA). TERA has successfully provided assistance in risk assessments to diverse agencies for more than 10 years. The ARA was developed to address significant emerging issues that are faced by many organizations, including state, provincial, tribal and local agencies. These groups often have limitations in funding and/or technical expertise, but must make decisions regarding human health and risk assessment.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has suffered significant budget cuts over the last few years and has limited technical resources. I understand the pressures of trying to find or have access to state-of-the-science information. The ARA, if developed, could provide a viable way for many groups with varied resources to come together and work on common goals regarding emerging contaminants and risk assessment information.

In conclusion, I strongly support the ARA proposal, and believe that it could provide an important service in advancing risk assessment and conserving ever more limited resources.

Sincerely,

Luanne K. Williams, Pharm.D, Toxicologist
Medical Evaluation and Risk Assessment Unit
Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

LW:bc

cc Dr Michael Dourson,
Director, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment
Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment
Suite 409, 2300 Montana Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45211

