January 26, 2010

Dr. Mary A. Fox
Assistant Professor
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
624 N. Broadway, 455
Baltimore, MD 21205

Dear Dr. Fox:


Pursuant to the Committee’s Rules, attached are written questions for the record directed to you from certain Members of the Committee. In preparing your answers, please address your response to the Member who submitted the questions.

Please provide your responses by February 9, 2010, to Earley Green, Chief Clerk, in Room 2125 of the Rayburn House Office Building and via e-mail to Earley.Green@mail.house.gov. Please contact Earley Green or Jennifer Berenholz at (202) 225-2927 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

Attachment
The Honorable Edward J. Markey

1. What are some of the specific physiological effects resulting from ingestion of the contaminants found in coal combustion waste and how are those effects different when a mixture of coal combustion waste contaminants are ingested?
The Honorable Joe Barton

1. In your testimony, you mention how people are exposed to coal combustion waste and many of your answers include the word “may”. Do you agree that the presence of hazardous constituents in the waste does not, by itself, mean that they will contaminate the surrounding air, ground, groundwater, or surface water?

2. Are there many complex physical and biogeochemical factors that influence the degree to which heavy metals can dissolve and migrate offsite – such as the mass of toxins in the waste and the degree to which water is able to flow through it?

3. You state that “systematic health effects research in any one small community will have limited statistical power to detect changes in health outcomes.” Why?

4. In your testimony, you listed a variety of health effects from ingestion of possible constituents of coal combustion waste. I noticed zinc is on this list. Zinc is also in the daily multivitamins many people take. Are we all in danger from daily consuming these vitamins that contain zinc?