



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

MAY 3 2010

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Mr. Paul N. Cicio
President
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Cicio:

Thank you for your letter to of February 24, 2010 to Administrator Lisa P. Jackson of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding industrial gasification projects with carbon capture and storage (CCS) and engagement by the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) with the Interagency Task Force on Carbon Capture and Storage (Task Force). I am pleased to respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and recognize that coal plays a role as an energy source in the manufacturing sector. As President Obama described in the February 3, 2010 memorandum establishing the Task Force, coal has for decades provided an important domestic source of reliable, affordable energy. At the same time, and as you mention in your letter, it is important to seek ways to reduce the environmental impact of its use. Developing and deploying CCS technologies will help accomplish this task and position the United States as a leader in the global clean energy race.

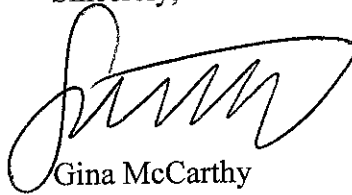
In accordance with the February 3, 2010 memorandum, the Task Force's work is underway and interagency teams are engaged in developing a proposed plan to overcome the barriers to the widespread, cost-effective deployment of CCS technologies. Public input is an important part of this process.

To ensure that there is a means for transparent public engagement in this effort, the Task Force has created a web site that contains relevant materials, a schedule of outreach meetings, and a forum for posting and viewing public comments, which can be found at <http://whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/ccs>. These comments will be reviewed by the appropriate agency representatives and given due consideration in the preparation of the proposed plan. The Task Force has also recently announced its first public meeting, to be held May 6 in Washington, D.C. The meeting will provide information about the Task Force and feature experts on capture and storage systems. More information can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/ccs/meetings>.

We furthermore would welcome the opportunity to meet with IECA to provide information on the Task Force and to hear your member organizations' input on CCS. I have asked a member of my staff, Lisa Bacanskas, to follow up with you directly to organize a meeting. She can be contacted at bacanskas.lisa@epa.gov or (202) 343-9758.

Again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service and trust the information provided is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gina McCarthy
Assistant Administrator