



NTEU

The National Treasury Employees Union

CHAPTER 280

P.O. BOX 76082

WASHINGTON, DC 20013

202-260-2383(V)

202-401-3139(F)

August 16, 2000

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Complaint Re: Principles of Scientific Integrity

FROM: James *B. Murphy*, *Ph.D.*, President *for*

TO: Marcia Mulkey, Director
Office of Pesticide Programs

This is a grievance pursuant to Article VII of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the union and the Agency, and pursuant to the Principles of Scientific Integrity (PSI) promulgated by the Administrator on March 28, 2000. The PSI document is incorporated by reference into his complaint

This grievance concerns the following actions or inactions by EPA which constitute ongoing violations¹ of the PSI:

- 1. Neglecting/refusing to send an EPA representative to attend a pathology working group review in February 2000 of tissue slides from a bioassay on malathion. At this crucial meeting significant changes were made in diagnoses that resulted in lowering the Agency's classification of malathion's carcinogenic potential. EPA knew of the potential for such changes, yet ignored its duty to protect the integrity of the review process by having an Agency scientist present. Legitimate skepticism now exists about the validity of the changed diagnoses and the resultant change in EPA's classification of malathion's carcinogenic potential.**
- 2. The development and circulation as a working draft of a cholinesterase inhibition (ChEI) policy paper which does not comport with the version that received approval of the FIFRA Science Advisory Panel (SAP) in June, 1997, that does not acknowledge that changes were made from the version approved by the SAP, and that nevertheless purports to have gained approval of the SAP. This sequence of events violates the integrity of the external peer review process and calls into question the legitimacy of EPA's ChEI policy.**

¹Since these are ongoing violations, this is a timely grievance even though the pathology working group review referenced herein occurred in February, 2000.