

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

July 28, 2000

Patricia A. Marida, Chair
1710 Dorsetshire Road
Columbus, OH 43229

Dear Pat:

Your letter regarding the Columbus XL Proposal raises several important issues. I am taking this opportunity to respond to those points.

As you state, the vast majority of poisoned children are exposed to lead in their homes related to peeling lead-based paint and dust. The essence of our proposal is intended to focus attention and resources at this source and pathway. In addition, key elements of the program will provide direct educational outreach to those most at-risk populations, as well as medical providers.

You also ask whether the city has considered enacting minimum standards for paint in older homes. I agree that a City Code change would be helpful. We intend to propose one establishing clear legal responsibilities for property owners to correct lead hazards where they are identified, and maintain their properties so as to prevent hazards from occurring.

Another key point you raise concerns the need to provide assistance to low-income families to perform lead abatement work. This proposal will provide \$100,000 per year to be used as lead abatement grants targeted to low to moderate income families. These grants *will be in addition to the City's current and future HUD grant monies*. The combination of funding sources will provide much needed flexibility to address both large and small scale abatement jobs.

Finally, you raise the issue of the City's need to protect the drinking water from all contaminants, and suggest the use of activated carbon. The Columbus Division of Water is dedicated to protecting public health. Eliminating ALL drinking water contaminants is not practical and the Division of Water believes it would not have a positive impact on public health, while significantly increasing the cost of tap water. Although activated carbon is considered best available technology by U.S. EPA for reducing the concentration of many organic chemicals in drinking water, it does not adsorb inorganics, and it is not a practical option for the City of Columbus.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in the XL stakeholder process. The points you raise are pertinent, and serve to illustrate the need for communication and sensitivity to the concerns of the public.

I appreciate the information and perspective you contribute to our efforts to find the best ways to combat the problem of childhood lead poisoning, and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Gary Garver, Director
Columbus Childhood Lead
Poisoning Prevention Program