

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Administrator Regan:

On April 10, 2023, I sent you a letter with respect to a 2008 Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendation to the EPA concerning the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program.¹ That recommendation remains open. I asked three questions in my letter:

1. What steps have you taken to close the open recommendation from the 2008 report?
2. Will EPA develop a strategic plan that identifies the resources that CPHEA needs to meet EPA user needs for chemical assessments?
3. Will EPA complete a workforce plan or other documentation that examines:
 - a. Agency-wide demand for IRIS assessments and other products?
 - b. CPHEA's current capacity to produce work?
 - c. CPHEA's human resource skills gaps?
 - d. CPHEA's plan to fill human resource gaps?²

On May 23, 2023, the EPA failed to fully respond to my letter.³ Concerning the first question, the EPA failed to communicate what steps it has taken to close the recommendation beyond simply requesting closure from GAO.

With respect to question two, the EPA stated that it “recently provided additional documentation related to resource planning as well as information regarding the documentation of the Agency’s need for IRIS assessments” to GAO.⁴ However, the EPA failed to provide these documents in its response to me.

With request to question three and its subparts, the EPA failed to answer or provide records.

¹ Letter from Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to Michael Regan, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (April 10, 2023), (on file with Comm. staff).

² *Id.*

³ Letter from Tim Del Monico, Associate Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, (May 23, 2023), (on file with Comm. staff).

⁴ *Id.*

Administrator Regan

July 21, 2023

Page 2 of 2

In light of the EPA's failure to substantively respond despite working on its reply for nearly a month after the two-week deadline, please answer the aforementioned questions and provide all relevant records no later than August 4, 2023.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Jace Pimentel of my Committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget