



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences
P. O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

June 8, 2007

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is a follow-up to the letter sent to you last month outlining the National Institutes of Environmental Health's (NIEHS) plans to issue a new RFP for the NIEHS journal, Environmental Health Perspectives. As clearly stated in that letter, NIEHS has recognized and addressed concerns about the privatization of EHP. NIEHS does not intend to privatize the journal and remains dedicated to supporting EHP.

Further, the Editor-in-Chief will remain a federal employee dedicated to maintaining the integrity and high scientific standards for which EHP is known.

We are aware of the Oversight Committee's review of this matter and are sensitive to your request that NIEHS postpone the release of the RFP pending the completion of your inquiry. We ask your indulgence in proceeding with the issuance of the RFP for the following reasons.

First, NIEHS has already extended the existing contract supporting the publication of EHP, creating uncertainty about the status of the contract and the future direction of the journal as well as adding unanticipated costs to the contract.

Secondly, in order to process the issuance of and response to the RFP prior to the date of the extension's deadline, we will need to publish the RFP soon. Further delays could add extra costs to the contract and potentially jeopardize the timely publication of the journal.

Finally, we intend to move forward in an open and transparent way, ensuring full public scrutiny of the RFP process.

The National Library of Medicine, which is acting as the contracting agent for NIEHS in this matter, hopes to proceed in issuing the RFP as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Samuel H. Wilson, MD
Deputy Director