



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

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OCT 19 2010

OFFICE OF
WATER

Mr. R. Steven Brown
Executive Director
Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 445
Washington, DC 20001

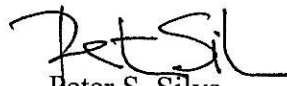
Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of August 19, 2010, regarding ECOS' recommendations for dental facilities. I am pleased to confirm EPA's recent announcement that we will initiate an effluent guideline rulemaking for dental facilities to reduce discharges of mercury. The Agency intends to focus its technology assessment on amalgam separators.

We were pleased to share this news with you on September 27, 2010, by way of Mary Smith's phone call to you. Mary and her staff in the Engineering and Analysis Division will continue to work with ECOS members and the Quicksilver Caucus to discuss issues related to this rulemaking. We expect to propose a rule in 2011 and take final action in 2012.

I look forward to working with you as we move forward with the dental amalgam rulemaking. If you have any questions, please let me know, or contact Mary Smith at smith.maryt@epa.gov or 202-566-1056.

Sincerely,


Peter S. Silva
Assistant Administrator