



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

DEC - 1 2005

OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
AND RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT

Mr. James McMath
Ms. Kendall Arey
EM Disaster Relief Campaign
1807 Second Street, #30
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. McMath and Ms. Arey:

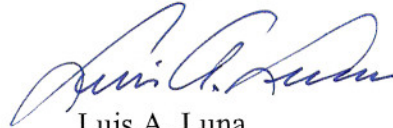
This is in response to your letter to Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, regarding a product known as "Effective Microorganisms" (EM-1), distributed by EM America, Inc. Senator Bingaman in turn forwarded a copy of your letter dated September 6, 2005, to Michael Chertoff, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Because of the potential use of EM-1 in the protection of human health and the environment, and its potential application in the cleanup efforts in the areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, DHS has requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prepare the response to your letter and initiate the appropriate inquiries you requested in your letter.

As your letter requested assistance with expedited procurement, the USEPA's Office of Acquisition Management (OAM) contacted the EM Disaster Relief Campaign (Mr. James McMath) and EM America (Mr. Eric Lancaster) on November 4, 2005, to provide information on the Agency's procurement procedures and policies and to request additional information suitable for technical review. On November 7, 2005, EM America provided us with several electronic files of information on EM-1. In order to review the potential merit or application of EM-1, we have forwarded the information to the USEPA's Office of Research and Development, National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL), Mr. Roy Haught, (513) 569-7067 and to the Office of Pesticide Programs, Ms. Laura Bailey, (703) 308-6212. You should expect a response from them with the results of their review. The Agency welcomes technically qualified, experienced, responsible partners to help the Agency with the enormous cleanup effort.

As we informed you previously, the Agency currently maintains and publishes a listing of contractors who have contacted EPA and offered their assistance with the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. This vendor listing, provided to EPA Program Offices throughout the ten regions and to key program prime contractors, is intended to facilitate matching Agency requirements with the vendors and suppliers who can meet those needs. We have added EM America, Inc. to this listing. You may further inquire about the listing by contacting the Office of Acquisition Management, Ms. Celia M. Vaughn, (202) 564-1047.

Again, thank you for your letter and I trust this information will be helpful to you. I sincerely hope that EM America will continue to pursue procurement opportunities at EPA. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 564-4600, or your staff may contact Ms. Judy Davis at (202) 564-4310 in the Office of Acquisition Management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis A. Luna".

Luis A. Luna
Assistant Administrator

cc: The Honorable Jeff Bingaman