

"Christine M B Fishkin" <FishkinC@gao.gov>

04/30/2009 03:41 PM

To: CIAQ@EPA

Cc: "Krista B Anderson" <AndersonKB@GAO.GOV>, "Nicolas A Sloss" <SlossN@GAO.GOV>

Subject: Re: Mold Report Follow-up

Hi, here's our response to your question about the scope of GAO mold study:

When GAO receives a congressional request for a GAO review, we meet with the requester's staff during job design and reach agreement on the scope and methodology for the review. Considerations for the design of the review include the priorities of the requester, the amount of resources involved, and GAO's statutory audit and access authority. The GAO report on mold reflects the agreement we reached on this review.

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

October 20, 2006

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Walker,

I'm writing to request a study of the U.S. government's efforts to minimize and mitigate illnesses associated with human exposure to mold in housing and other indoor environments. Human exposure to environmental mold and the toxins they produce are known to result in allergic and other hypersensitivity reactions in healthy individuals, and there is growing evidence that a subpopulation of otherwise healthy individuals can, after exposure to environmental mold, develop severe persistent health problems. These health effects, coupled with the unprecedented rebuilding of flooded residences and businesses along the coasts of New Orleans, Mississippi and Louisiana could trigger a significant public health crisis.

In your study, please consider the following questions:

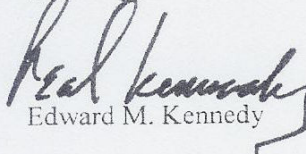
Deleted from Federal Government Accountability Audit:

- What medical and scientific standards are used in determining the admissibility of evidence of both acute and persistent health consequences resulting from exposure to mold? Which individuals and organizations have promulgated these standards and what, if any, conflicts of interest exist regarding these standards?

We look forward to your response to this request. If you have any questions, please let me know, or contact David Bowen at (202) 224-7675.

With great respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy