From: Axelrad, Don
To: William H Orem; gilmourc@si.edu
Subject: RE: DeBusk Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 3:50:39 PM

Bill, Cindy,

Makes you wonder if he's a lawyer or a scientist……

I'd like to make a strong reply in WPB while pointing out that many questions will be answered with the completion of Cindy's current ACME data compilation / interpretation contract.

Don

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From: William H Orem [mailto:borem@usgs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 3:42 PM
To: gilmourc@si.edu; Axelrad, Don
Subject: DeBusk Comments

Cindy and Don:

If we need to talk about this, I'll be in tommorrow and thursday, but have conference calls each day at 1 pm. About 10 am each day would be a good time to catch me. I scanned his comments. While some valid points are made, many of his criticisms are not applicable to a research lab. I do not run, nor do I claim to run a commercial lab. Arguments about chain of custody, etc. are just harassment from the sugar industry as far as I am concerned. I'm sure criminals are just lined up at the USGS loading dock waiting for our Everglades samples to be delivered by Fedex so that they can sprinkle in some sulfate! The sulfate-MeHg connection is well established, as far as I am concerned. The other effects of S are less firmly established, but certainly concerns. DeBusk's ties to Big Sugar make any results he comes up with questionable in my mind, regardless of how many blanks he runs in his IC.

Bill