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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

Both the House and Senate are out of session and will reconvene following Labor Day on Tuesday, September 5.

OTHER

EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS COMMENT FAVORABLY ON EPA PROPOSED RULE ON ACADEMIC LABORATORIES

A group of six higher education associations, including AAU, wrote to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 18 to comment on proposed changes to federal regulations for hazardous waste disposal at academic laboratories. The proposed regulations, announced in the May 23 Federal Register, drew praise from the six organizations. The new rules would give universities new flexibility in deciding how best to dispose of hazardous laboratory wastes. Each institution would have the choice of either developing its own detailed laboratory management plan—for which EPA would hold it accountable—or continuing to operate under existing rules.

The comment letter, developed under the leadership of the American Council on Education and the National Association of College and University Business Officers, said:

“We strongly believe that the performance-based approach proposed in Subpart K will allow our diverse academic laboratories to use the most effective and efficient methods to achieve maximum environmental performance, and we thank the EPA for your effort to understand the unique nature of hazardous waste management at colleges and universities.”

Additional information about the associations’ response and a copy of the comment letter are available on the ACE Web site at: http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=HENA&CONTENTID=17900&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm.

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