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## Karen L. McCormack

1601 Walden Drive  
McLean, VA 22101

(703) 827-5473 (home)  
(843) 996-6648 (cell)  
[kmccorm48@gmail.com](mailto:kmccorm48@gmail.com)

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### Communications Officer/Policy Analyst/Scientist

A self-motivated, highly energetic, results-oriented individual with a solid record of success in communications, program and policy analysis, and scientific assessment of complex technical issues, including environmental policies and programs at the federal level and scientific issues pertaining to ecological risk and human health risk of chemicals. Recognized for outstanding verbal/written communication skills and ability to produce under extremely tight deadlines.

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### Professional Experience

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: Environmental Fate and Effects Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

- As a senior communications officer, identifies communication needs and opportunities and develops strategies and related materials that address these needs
- Works closely with other agency communications officers and press officers to develop press releases, Q's and A's, and program updates
- Develops web documents, outreach materials, and other documents for major scientific issues and projects
- Manages peer review of scientific documents and reviews all major documents released to the public
- Provides weekly updates and quick-response status reports on major activities to upper management in EPA
- Manages the division's response to FOIA requests and other requests for information from people inside as well as outside the Agency
- Presents seminars and briefings that describe the activities of the division

POLICY ANALYST: Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

- Served as lead analyst in peer reviewing agency policies, steering committee packages, and regulations to ensure compliance with Agency, OMB, and Congressional policies and objectives; alerted the Assistant Administrator of their impact on OPPTS/EPA

- Coordinated the budgeting and planning activities for OPPTS' research programs with the Office of Research and Development
- Worked with a broad array of stakeholders and state, regional, and other federal agencies to develop the agency's pesticides in ground water strategy
- Developed OPPTS' operating guidance as part of the Agency's budget and planning process
- Evaluated the planning and management systems in OPPTS and presented recommendations to the Assistant Administrator

PROGRAM ANALYST: Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

- Evaluated pesticide programs, processes, and planning and management systems; identified problem areas, trends, and deficiencies and presented recommendations for improving them to the Office Director
- Developed and assisted in the implementation of OPP's time accounting system and planning and management system
- Developed annual reports and five-year strategy for the pesticide programs
- Peer reviewed and responded to numerous inquiries from stakeholders, states, regions, Congress, and GAO regarding pesticide activities and programs

SCIENTIST : Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

- Evaluated environmental chemistry and ecotoxicity data for pesticides; prepared reports and risk assessments describing the impacts of pesticides to the environment
- Provided technical advice to stakeholders and product users to resolve problems in analysis and development of protocol design and execution of pesticide studies
- Recommended and participated in audits of independent testing laboratories that provide data to the EPA in support of the registration of pesticides

RESEARCH COORDINATOR: University of Georgia at the Environmental Protection Agency, Athens, GA

- Directed and managed a microbiology group of 6-8 technical staff
- As a group leader on a multidisciplinary team, planned and conducted pesticide degradation studies in aquatic systems
- Analyzed and evaluated experimental data using advanced statistical techniques and computer simulation modeling
- Based upon analyses and results of these experiments, developed and presented recommendations and conclusions to upper management
- Published and presented research findings at several scientific seminars and meetings.

INSTRUCTOR; TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Gainesville Junior College, Gainesville, GA and University of Georgia, Athens, GA

- Taught college biology and chemistry courses and laboratories; received outstanding student and faculty evaluations
- Developed radiotracer techniques and conducted laboratory experiments to analyze microbial lipid metabolism in hydrocarbon-degrading microorganisms
- Acquired extensive knowledge of biochemical techniques, including chromatographic and radiotracer techniques

## **Education**

Bachelor of Arts: Biology and Chemistry, West Chester University, West Chester, PA

Masters of Science: Microbiology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Continuing Education Coursework: Toxicology, Information Systems at George Washington University

HTML and Web Development at USDA Graduate School and Fairfax County

Extensive knowledge of Word, Word Perfect, Power Point, Excel, Access

## **Awards and Recognitions**

Received numerous bronze medals and awards for superior performance