

CHAPTER TWO (updated 14 August 2009)

Add note 6 on page 64:

6. In March 2008, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that under its Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), EPA had been unable to complete timely, credible chemical assessments or decrease its backlog of ongoing assessments (GAO, *Chemical Assessments: Low Productivity and New Interagency Review Process Limit the Usefulness and Credibility of EPA's Integrated Risk Information System* GAO-08-440, Washington, D.C.). Further, in December 2008, the National Academy of Sciences issued a report, commissioned by EPA, entitled *Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment*. The report is critical of EPA's regulatory risk assessment process, concluding that the agency's risk assessments have been hampered by funding and staffing shortages, by insufficient internal agency coordination, and by a failure to frame risk assessment studies properly by asking the right questions up front. Following a change in administration, GAO testified that EPA had suggested assessment process reforms that "represent significant improvements and, if implemented, would be largely responsive to GAO's March 2008 recommendations" (GAO, *EPA Chemical Assessments: Process Reforms Offer the Potential to Address Key Problems*, GAO-090-774T, Washington, D.C.)