ACC COMMENT ON EPA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON NANOTECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 4, 2012) – The Nanotechnology Panel of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) today released the following statement about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General’s (OIG) report, “EPA Needs to Manage Nanomaterial Risks More Effectively.” The statement is attributed to Jay West, senior director of Chemical Products & Technology at ACC:

“The Nanotechnology Panel feels that the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) has demonstrated leadership in nanotechnology management and that the agency overall has made an enormous investment of time and talent in this area. We were surprised by OIG’s assertion that EPA is not communicating an overall message to external stakeholders regarding policy changes and information about nanomaterials.

“We agree with OIG that the agency should have an internally consistent and coordinated approach across all offices, and are supportive of the recommendation that EPA develop an inter-office process for sharing information about nanomaterials. Creating a single public website about nanotechnology management, as OIG recommends, is one possible outcome of this information sharing and could help refute the notion that there is a lack of data about the potential health and environmental effects of nanomaterials and insufficient action being taken by EPA.”

# # #