



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

JUN 30 1986

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Risk Assessment Council

FROM: Lee M. Thomas /s/

TO: Assistant Administrators
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators
General Counsel

Today I am happy to announce the formation of the EPA Risk Assessment Council. The purpose of the Council is to oversee virtually all aspects of the Agency's risk assessment process, to identify issues and problems with that process and to forge solutions. The objective of the Council is to ensure that EPA programs use risk assessment in a consistent and scientifically credible fashion. The establishment of the Council is the culmination of an Agency-wide discussion Jim Barnes and I initiated over a year ago with the aim of determining what steps needed to be taken to effectively implement risk assessment at EPA. I see the Risk Assessment Council as a keystone in that implementation. The Council approach reiterates the Agency's commitment to decentralization and to collectively deciding on ways to improve the Agency's operations.

Attached to this memorandum are charters for the Risk Assessment Council and the Risk Assessment Forum [*note: these old charters are not attached for this web site version*]. Although the Forum has been operating for several years, many issues regarding its purpose and operations were not fully resolved. Hopefully the Forum charter resolves many of those issues and reaffirms the basic original purpose of the Forum: development of consensus among EPA scientists on difficult and important risk assessment issues. To that end the charter rather radically restructures the Forum membership. I know that several of you were concerned that the more restrictive rules regarding membership would make it difficult for your offices to be effectively involved in the selection and resolution of risk assessment issues. We have made several changes in the charters to accommodate these concerns.

Jack Moore will chair the Risk Assessment Council. The other fourteen members will be Michael Cook (Office of Water), Don Clay (Office of Air and Radiation), Marcia Williams (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response), Victor Kimm (Office of Pesticide and Toxic Substances), Theodore Farber (OPTS), Dan Beardsley (Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation), Don Ehreth (Office of Research and Development), Peter Preuss (ORD), Hugh McKinnon (ORD), Rosemarie Russo (ORD), Steve Wassersug (Region III), Bill Muszynski (Region II), Terry Yosie (Science Advisory Board), and Deb Taylor (Office of the Administrator).

Under the new charters the Risk Assessment Council will solicit nominees to the Risk Assessment Forum from the Assistant Administrators and Regional Administrators and select the ten members. This process should be completed by September 1.

I am confident that these two organizations will bring meaningful, long-run improvements to the operations of EPA, and that the spirit of initiative and cooperation that has marked our discussion of the risk assessment process over the last year will continue. I know that each of you will lend your fullest support to the new members to enable them to make the kind of progress I know we can achieve.

Attachments (2)