Excerpts from the 2005 Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) review of EPA's PM and Ozone Research Program

The following pages contain excerpts from the **Report of the Board of Scientific Counselors: Particulate Matter and Ozone Research Program Review**. *This report was written in 2005 by the BOSC's Subcommittee on Particulate Matter and Ozone Research (members listed below). The selected excerpts demonstrate the BOSC's positive review of EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD)'s PM and Ozone Research Program.*

The full text of this report can be viewed at:
http://www.epa.gov/OSP/bosc/pdf/pm0508rpt.pdf

Review Panel Members:

Dr. Rogene Henderson (Chair), Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
Dr. Juarine Stewart (Vice-Chair), Morgan State University
Mr. Bart Croes, California Air Resources Board
Dr. Kenneth Demerjian, State University of New York
Dr. Brian Lamb, Washington State University
Dr. Michael Lipsett, California Department of Health Services
Dr. Peipei Ping, UCLA School of Medicine
Dr. Charles Rodes, Research Triangle Institute
Dr. Christian Seigneur, Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc.

Board of Scientific Counselors. *Particulate Matter and Ozone Research Program Review*. August 11, 2005. Available online at http://www.epa.gov/OSP/bosc/pdf/pm0508rpt.pdf.

The Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) provides objective and independent counsel to the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development (AA/ORD) on the management and operation of ORD's research programs. The BOSC Executive Committee agreed in September 2004 to undertake a program review of the Particulate Matter and Ozone Research Program, and formed a subcommittee of experts to do so. This review included a retrospective as well as a prospective evaluation, examining progress made to date and the future direction of the EPA research in this program. Its aim was to consider the relevance, quality, performance, scientific leadership, and resources of the program.

Relevant comments:

Page 4: "The ORD PM & O3 Research Program has resulted in significant reductions in scientific uncertainty in critical areas, especially the distribution and dosimetry of inhaled fine and ultrafine particles, the relationship of ambient, fixed-site PM monitoring to real-world human exposures, the identification of biologically plausible mechanisms of PM toxicity (including cardiovascular effects), the validity of PM epidemiological studies, including in particular confounding and misclassification of exposure, as well as improved emissions monitoring and air quality modeling."

Page 4: "The current ORD PM program provides a balanced blend of research outputs targeted at uncertainty reduction and outcome-directed research to assist OAR in protecting public health. The Subcommittee considers that this blend of output- and outcome-directed research is critical to the long-term success and relevance of the program."

Page 5: "The Subcommittee finds a high degree of integration in the conduct of intramural and extramural research across the various laboratories, centers, and scientific disciplines."

Page 5: "The Subcommittee finds the overall science being conducted by the ORD PM & O3 Research Program in both intramural and extramural research laboratories to be of high quality as indicated by: (a) scholarship and scientific publications; (b) credentials of participating investigators; (c) integrative and outcome-oriented program design; and (d) building of a knowledge and information database."

Page 16: "There is a strong interaction, coordination, and synergism among various laboratories and centers, as is evidenced in the oral presentations, poster presentations, and documents provided to the Subcommittee. It is also apparent that the management of these projects includes planning and procedures that ensure vibrant scientific communications (such as conference calls, investigator meetings at various locations, and the active management of Web site information)."