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December 14, 2005

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US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC 20460

Dr. William Farland  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Science  
Office of Research and Development  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Drs. Gray and Farland:

In June 2005, ORD sought an independent Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) expert review of its Drinking Water Research Program. After consultation with the Agency, the BOSC selected a Drinking Water Subcommittee to review and evaluate the ORD Drinking Water Research Program. A five member subcommittee, called the Drinking Water Subcommittee, was formulated and composed of representatives from academia, industry, and government. The subcommittee was assisted by a consultant. Dr. Gary Saylor of the University of Tennessee and I, both of BOSC Executive Member, served as the chair and vice-chair, respectively of the subcommittee.

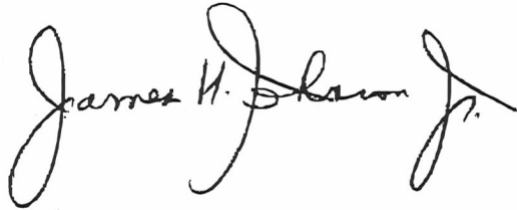
The subcommittee was charged with evaluating ORD's Drinking Water Research Program with respect to four criteria: design and leadership, quality of science, relevance and demonstrated program outcomes. The subcommittee was also asked to respond to six multi-component charge questions. The subcommittee communicated through an administrative conference call along with two formal conference calls fully open to the public. The subcommittee met with Agency program directors, individual researchers, STAR (Science to Achieve Results) grantees, clients, stakeholders, and the public on June 21-23, 2005 in Cincinnati to conduct the review and draft a review report for BOSC executive committee approval.

The results of the review are anticipated to assist ORD in program enhancement, comparative analysis with other similar programs, intermediate mid term investment decisions, GPRA reporting and response to the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process. The charge questions and the subcommittee's responses are contained in the attached report.

It is my pleasure to transmit this report to you on behalf of the BOSC Executive Committee and the Drinking Water Subcommittee. We hope that the advice provided in the report will assist ORD in improving its science, explain the significance of its research and assist clients inside and outside EPA in utilizing its research products.

Please feel free to contact me if there are questions regarding the Report and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James H. Johnson, Jr." in a cursive style.

James H. Johnson, Jr.  
Chair

