
April 12, 2005

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E. Timothy Oppelt
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

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Subject: BOSC Program Review of the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals
Research Program

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Dear Mr. Oppelt:

The Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) has completed its program review of the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDC) research program for EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD). This is the first program review conducted by the BOSC and a number of additional program reviews are underway.

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This review was accomplished in response to a charge from former Assistant Administrator for ORD, Dr. Paul Gilman. The BOSC Executive Committee agreed in May 2004 to undertake a pilot program review, so the BOSC formed a subcommittee to provide a peer review of the EDC research program. The Agency developed a charge to the BOSC for this review that included a number of questions to be used by the subcommittee in assessing the program's relevance, performance, quality, and leadership, retrospectively, and its proposed directions, prospectively.

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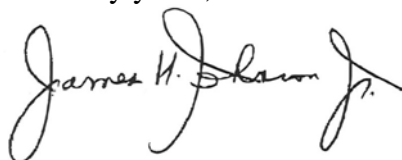
The subcommittee used the *Endocrine Disruptors Research Plan*, the *Multi-Year Plan (FY2000-2012) for Endocrine Disruptors*, the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's Research Implementation Plan, and other materials provided by ORD as background information for the review. The subcommittee members participated in two conference calls—one in November and the other in early December to plan the review. The members also attended a face-to-face meeting that was held December 13-15, 2004, at EPA's facilities in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The meeting included a series of presentations on the program and its long-term goals by ORD staff as well as poster sessions of the research conducted by intramural and extramural researchers, program and regional office scientists, and grantees. The meeting concluded with presentations that addressed the relevance of the research program from Agency program and regional offices that use the resulting science. The subcommittee developed a draft report following that meeting and it was reviewed and approved by the entire subcommittee during a conference call on January 6, 2005. The report prepared by the subcommittee was submitted to the BOSC and reviewed by the members of the Executive Committee at its January

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27-28, 2005 meeting. The results of this pilot review will guide future BOSC program reviews, a number of which currently are underway.

The BOSC members would be interested in your views and the response of ORD to this report. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments regarding the review.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James H. Johnson, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J" and a small "jr." at the end.

James H. Johnson, Jr.
Chair, Board of Scientific Counselors