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August 5, 2005

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

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

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RE: Human Health Subcommittee Report on ORD's Human Health Research Program

Dear Mr. Oppelt and Dr. Farland:

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At a public meeting in September 2004, the Executive Committee of the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) agreed to form a new subcommittee to conduct a program review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Research and Development's (ORD) Human Health Research Program. The expected outcome of the review was to provide guidance that would help ORD to: (1) plan, implement, and strengthen the Human Health Research Program; (2) compare the Human Health Research Program with other EPA and federal programs designed to achieve similar outcomes; (3) make research investment decisions over the next 5 years; and (4) prepare EPA's performance and accountability reports to Congress.

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The eight-member BOSC Human Health Subcommittee was composed of representatives from academia, industry, and government. Dr. James E. Klaunig of the Indiana University School of Medicine served as the Chair of the Subcommittee, and Dr. James R. Clark, a BOSC Executive Committee Member, of the Exxon Mobil Research and Engineering Company served as Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee.

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The Subcommittee was charged with evaluating ORD's Human Health Research Program with respect to four criteria: relevance, quality, performance, and scientific leadership. A series of questions associated with each of these four criteria was posed to the Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee chose to organize its response according to the long-term goals outlined in the *Human Health Multi-Year Plan*.

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**U.S. EPA  
Board of  
Scientific  
Counselors**

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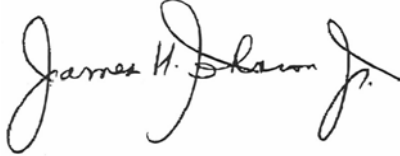
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Overall, as indicated in the report, the research of the Human Health Research Program is of high quality and appropriately focused. A greater level of interaction between externally funded University Centers and ORD's intramural research could result in more significant research progress.

It is my pleasure to submit the Human Health Program Review report to you on behalf of the BOSC Executive Committee and Human Health Subcommittee. We hope that the advice provided in the report will assist ORD in improving its science, explain the significance of its research, and aid clients inside and outside of EPA in utilizing its research products.

Please feel free to contact me if there are questions regarding the report. The BOSC looks forward to your response.

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, looped initial "J" and a distinct "jr." at the end.

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