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August 11, 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

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

Dear Mr. Oppelt and Dr. Farland:

At a public meeting in September 2004, the Executive Committee of the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), agreed to form a subcommittee to review the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) Particulate Matter and Ozone (PM & O<sub>3</sub>) Research Program. The expected outcome of the review was to provide guidance to help ORD: (1) assess the progress and direction of the PM & O<sub>3</sub> Research Program; (2) plan, implement, and strengthen the program; (3) evaluate research investment decisions over the next 5 years; (4) compare the program with any programs designed to achieve similar outcomes in other parts of EPA and in other federal agencies; (5) prepare EPA's performance and accountability reports to Congress under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); and (6) consider options for the reporting of outcomes as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) review process.

A nine member BOSC subcommittee, called the Particulate Matter and Ozone Subcommittee, was formulated and composed of representatives from academia, industry, and government. The Subcommittee was charged with evaluating ORD's PM & O<sub>3</sub> Research Program with respect to four criteria: design and leadership, quality of science, relevance, and demonstrated program outcomes. Dr. Rogene Henderson of the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute and Dr. Juarine Stewart of Morgan State University, both BOSC Executive Committee members, served as the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Subcommittee.

The report is organized as a response to a series of questions associated with each of the four criteria mentioned above. Overall, the Subcommittee was generally pleased with the content and progress of the PM dimension of ORD's PM & O<sub>3</sub> Research Program. Based on the review, it was clear that the large group of investigators, both within and outside EPA, worked diligently together to present the program in an integrated and readily comprehensible manner that facilitated the job of the Subcommittee. The findings of the Subcommittee are summarized in 10 conclusions and 9 recommendations in the Executive Summary of the report.

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

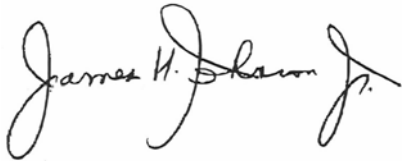
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It is my pleasure to transmit this report to you on behalf of the BOSC Executive Committee and Particulate Matter and Ozone Subcommittee. We hope that the advice provided in the report will assist ORD in improving its science, explaining the significance of its research, and expanding the use of its products by clients inside and outside of EPA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are questions regarding the report. The BOSC looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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

James H. Johnson, Jr.  
Chair