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July 23, 2007

Dr. George Gray
Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Gray:

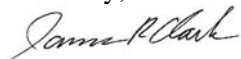
The Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) recently completed a detailed review of ORD's Safe Pesticides/Safe Products (SP2) Research Program. A team of nine scientists participated in a series of conference calls, a face-to-face meeting, and program material reviews that started in early January 2007. The program review was structured around a number of specific charge questions that relate to program relevance, structure, performance, quality, scientific leadership, coordination/communication, and outcomes. The BOSC Executive Committee has reviewed the report generated as a result of this effort and is pleased to transmit the report to ORD on behalf of the BOSC and the SP2 Subcommittee.

The overall impression generated during the program review is that the SP2 is very successful in achieving its goals. Its relevance to the Agency's mission is clear and apparent. It is well managed throughout all levels, from senior management through data collection and analysis. The SP2 Program fills a unique niche within the Agency, providing advanced scientific approaches to proactively identify chemical risks and assess those risks, while informing risk management actions to reduce risks. This is a scientifically difficult task, requiring state-of-the-science solutions. Our review finds that SP2 is supplying these solutions. We believe that the program is of great value now and will continue to be so well into the future.

As with all reviews, the Subcommittee identified several areas for improvement. Not to diminish the high regard for this program, the review developed 22 specific recommendations for ORD's consideration as a means to maintain and enhance the program. The details of the BOSC review and basis for these recommendations are documented in the accompanying report. We hope this review will assist ORD in meeting the programmatic goals of the SP2 Program and enhance understanding and interactions with clients inside and outside EPA.

It is my pleasure to transmit this report to you on behalf of the BOSC and the SP2 Subcommittee. The BOSC looks forward to discussing your response to this effort, as we have done with other program reviews. Please feel free to contact me if there are questions regarding the report.

Sincerely,



James R. Clark
Chair