



ORD's Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC)

Background/Purpose of the BOSC

The Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) was established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1996 to provide advice and recommendations about the Office of Research and Development (ORD) research program. Members constitute a distinguished body of scientists and engineers who are recognized experts in their respective fields. It is one of approximately 24 federal advisory committees at EPA. The BOSC is led by an executive committee, which includes up to 15 members who meet three to five times each year. Since the BOSC is a federal advisory committee, it must comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and related regulations. As a result, the Board operates under an approved charter, which must be renewed biennially, and is required to announce its meetings in the Federal Register, open its meetings to the public, and provide opportunities for public comment on issues before the board. The BOSC provides advice and recommendations to ORD on:

- science and engineering research, programs and plans, laboratories, and research-management practices of ORD
- ORD's program development and progress, ORD's research planning process, and research program balance
- peer review, including evaluation of ORD's peer review policies, and review of ORD Offices, National Laboratories and Centers, and research plans and products
- human resources planning, such as scientist career development and rotational assignment programs, and the appropriate scope and design of training programs for environmental research professionals.

BOSC Subcommittees

With the approval of EPA, the BOSC executive committee establishes subcommittees for any purpose consistent with the BOSC's charter. Such subcommittees may not work independently of the chartered executive committee, and must report their recommendations and advice to the BOSC for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the BOSC, nor can they report directly to EPA.

ORD Staff Support

A representative from ORD's Office of Science Policy serves as the designated federal officer for the BOSC, in coordinating all executive committee activities and related administrative functions (i.e., personnel, travel, financial tracking, time keeping, recordkeeping), and provides oversight of all subcommittee activities. Current information about the BOSC, including BOSC members, activities, and copies of BOSC meeting minutes and reports are available at www.epa.gov/osp/bosc. For FY06, ORD will provide 3.3 FTE and approximately \$770,000 (which includes ORD staff and contractor costs) to support BOSC activities.

For more information about the BOSC,
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