



Cross Program Staff

The Cross-Program Staff within ORD's Office of Science Policy is responsible for the development, coordination, and oversight of issues that cut across EPA's traditional program specific emphases. The Cross-Program Staff specializes in a variety of outreach activities and often serves as the primary ORD and/or Agency representative. Primary activities include the EPA-wide coordination for the Federal Technology Transfer Act, the EPA Science Inventory/OSP information management, ORD's Board of Scientific Counselors, ORD's Environmental Justice Program, ORD's Futures program, and OSP communications.

Technology Transfer

The EPA seeks opportunities to transfer federal technologies into the marketplace, and collaborate on environmental research and development projects with outside entities, such as industry, consortia, academia, trade associations, and state and local agencies. The Federal Technology Transfer Act (FTTA) provides a mechanism for these cooperative research and development partnerships. Through the FTTA program, federal agencies can conduct joint research with non-federal partners and protect intellectual property that may be developed. The technology transfer staff also coordinate patenting and licensing of EPA inventions.

Science Inventory/OSP Information Management

The Science Inventory (SI) is a searchable, Agency-wide database of 6,000+ scientific and technical work products. The SI serves the Agency as a science planning tool and as a mechanism to communicate EPA science activities to anyone with an interest in EPA science-related activities. Database records provide information such as project descriptions (abstracts), contacts for additional information and electronic links to final reports and related research. The SI is also used to report and evaluate peer review information for the Agency and comply with OMB and EPA policies on peer review. In addition to the SI, the OSP Information Management Manager ensures that OSP information management systems comply with Agency policies and standards and meet the business needs of the Office of Science Policy.

ORD Board of Scientific Counselors

The Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) was established by the EPA to provide advice, information, and recommendations about ORD research program. The BOSC is a Federal Advisory Committee and must comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App. C) and related regulations. The Board has an approved charter, which must be renewed biennially, announces its meetings in the Federal Register, opens its meetings to the public, and provides opportunities for public comment on issues before the Board.

ORD Futures

Office of Research and Development established a goal within our strategic plan "To anticipate future environmental issues." ORD's Office of Science Policy leads this goal's implementation. The three objectives of this goal are to develop an organizational capability for environmental foresight, stimulate dialogue both inside and outside EPA on future environmental developments and their significance, and pilot futures analysis for a few key environmental issues. The futures program will help to identify and understand potential future risks to human health and the environment; recommend new directions for research and program management decisions; and identify innovative, cost-effective solutions and alternatives through an ongoing futures effort.

ORD Environmental Justice

ORD's policy is to integrate environmental justice concerns into its research programs where appropriate, and ORD staff are expected to have a basic understanding of what environmental justice (EJ) is and how ORD's work contributes to the efforts of Program and Regional offices in meeting their EJ goals and objectives. We

communicate this information through ORD's management, planning process, and EJ network. OSP coordinates ORD's EJ effort and serves as the ORD EJ Coordinator.

OSP Communications

Many OSP activities are of high profile and often involve EPA Regions and Program Offices, as well as close interaction with the Office of the Assistant Administrator for ORD. The communications function for OSP resides in the Cross Program staff, and includes the development of communications materials, such as press releases, news articles, fact sheets, and posters, etc.