

HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 8 Number 12

December 2003

GUEST EDITORIAL



Goodbye to "HAPPENINGS"

The holiday season is upon us. Like many of you, the Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office is reflecting on the past year - noting our accomplishments and assessing our shortcomings - and looking forward to new beginnings in 2004. The Staff Office was recently reorganized to enhance its capacity and provide more support to the SAB, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, and the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis. The challenge in 2004 will be to identify and implement efficiencies in all aspects of the Staff Office's operations in support of these advisory committees.

In October, we informed the readers of "Happenings" that the SAB Staff had undertaken a long-term effort to redesign the SAB website (www.epa.gov/sab), and in conjunction with that effort, "Happenings" would no longer be published. The web development work is ongoing, and a number of ideas have been identified that will deliver much of the same information found in "Happenings" through the SAB website in a more up-to-date, consistent, and integrated manner.

The Staff Office will be working to develop an integrated database system. One component of the system contains information about advisory members (also known as the "People Database"). The other provides the status of SAB projects and related information such as Federal Register notices, meeting agendas, advisory reports, and membership of advisory committees or panels. Web postings launched from these databases will be in "real" time and provide the Agency, advisory members and the public access to the same information available to the Staff Office. In the interim, you should expect the same information currently featured in "Happenings" to be available on our website.

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The Science Advisory Board Staff Office wishes you and yours a happy and safe holiday.

Richard Albores
Acting Deputy Director for Management

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- 10** Committee: Science Advisory Board
Topic(s): Briefing on Goals 1 & 2 Science and Technology
Location: Ronald Reagan Building, Horizon Ball Room,
Washington, DC
Chair: *Dr. William Glaze, Oregon Health & Science
University*
DFO: *Mr. Thomas Miller*
Email: *miller.tom@epa.gov*
- 11** Committee: Science Advisory Board
Topic(s): Workshop on Environmental Protection
(attendance by registration only)
Location: Ronald Reagan Building, Horizon Ball Room,
Washington, DC
Chair: *Dr. William Glaze, Oregon Health & Science
University*
DFO: *Mr. Robert Flaak*
Email: *flaak.robert@epa.gov*
- 12** Committee: Science Advisory Board, Environmental Health
Committee/Integrated Human Exposure
Committee (EHC/IHEC)
Topic(s): Joint Coordination Meeting of FY 2004 Activities
Location: Ronald Reagan Building, Horizon Ball Room,
Washington, DC
Chair: *Dr. Rebecca Parkin, The George Washington
University*
DFO: *Dr. Suhair "Sue" Shallal*
Email: *shallal.suhair@epa.gov*
- 19F** Committee: Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third
812 Analysis
Topic(s): Review of the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 812
Cost and Benefits Draft Report to Congress
Location: By Teleconference Only
Chair: *Dr. Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: *nugent.angela@epa.gov*

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22F

Committee: Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis
Topic(s): Review of the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 812 Cost and Benefits Draft Report to Congress
Location: By Teleconference Only
Chairs: *Dr. Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

JANUARY



16F

Committee: Multimedia, Multipathway, and Multireceptor Risk Assessment (3MRA) Modeling System Panel
Topic(s): Second Draft Report on 3MRA Modeling System
Location: Teleconference
Chairs: *Dr. Thomas Theis, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago*
DFO: *Ms. Kathleen White*
Email: white.kathleen@epa.gov

20F

Committee: Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services
Topic(s): Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services; Planning Call and Consultation
Location: Teleconference
Chairs: *Dr. Domenico Grasso, Smith College*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

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21F

Committee: Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services
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22F

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Topic(s): Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services
Location: Teleconference
Chairs: *Dr. Domenico Grasso, Smith College*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

To View Calendar of Future Meetings Click Here
Or

Go to the SAB website www.epa.gov/sab/mtgcal.htm

COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES
IN
NOVEMBER



On November 5-6, the **Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis** held a public meeting. The purpose of the meeting was: (1) To receive an update on a draft report by the Council's Health Effects Subcommittee (HES); (2) to review and take action on a Council Special Panel Report "Interim Installment: Review of the Revised Analytical Plan for EPA's

Second Prospective Analysis - Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act 1990-2020;" and (3) to provide advice to the Agency on remaining charge questions related to its review of the Revised Analytical Plan for EPA's Second Prospective Analysis.

The Committee received important updates from the Agency about the legal status of the 812 Report and its policy purpose, the current time-frame for developing the final report, and changes in some key analytical assumptions. The Committee addressed all charge questions not covered during its pre-meeting teleconferences. It agreed on major points to be included in the cover letter to the Administrator and on a plan of action for

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completing its advisory on the Agency's draft analytical plan.

On November 12-13, the EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel held a meeting in Research Triangle Park (RTP), North Carolina. The purpose of this publicly-accessible teleconference was to: (1) discuss follow-on matters related to its ongoing peer review of the *EPA Air Quality Criteria Document for Particulate Matter (Fourth External Review Draft)*; and (2) conduct a peer review of the *Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter: Policy Assessment of Scientific and Technical Information (OAQPS Staff Paper - First Draft)* and a related draft technical report, *Particulate Matter Health Risk Assessment for Selected Urban Areas (Draft Report)*.

The CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel ("Panel") consists of the seven-member CASAC, supplemented by expert consultants. The Panel is charged in part with providing advice, information and recommendations on the scientific and technical aspects of issues related to air quality criteria and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter, under sections 108 and 109 of the Clean Air Act.

The first portion of the November 12-13 meeting was a continuation of the Panel's review of the Fourth External Review Draft of the Air Quality Criteria Document (AQCD) for PM which took place in a public meeting held in RTP on August 25-26, 2003, and which was continued during a public teleconference held on October 3, 2003. EPA is in the process of

updating, and revising where appropriate, the PM AQCD for PM as issued in 1996. The *EPA Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (Fourth External Review Draft)* can be viewed and downloaded from EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>. The Agency expects to complete the revisions to Chapters 7 and 8 of the AQCD for PM and to make these available for the Panel's review and public comment in December. A teleconference with the Panel is being planned to discuss these two chapters in late January or early February 2004. NCEA, which is within EPA's Office of Research and Development, will also continue to work on Chapter 9, a revised draft of which will not be completed until after that teleconference with the Panel. Chapter 9 should be available to be sent-out simultaneously for CASAC review and for public comment in late January or early February 2004. A public meeting for the Panel's review of Chapter 9 is being planned for March 2004. Additional review of Chapter 9, if appropriate, could take place in a teleconference in late March or early April 2004.

The second part of the meeting was the Panel's initial review of the first draft OAQPS Staff Paper for PM and draft PM Risk Assessment. Dr. Karen Martin of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS), within EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, began her presentation by reviewing the process for the review of the science included in the staff paper. CASAC review and public comments on the first draft will help inform the second draft staff paper, which will be based on the final PM criteria document. As a draft staff paper, the document does not represent Agency positions. A CASAC PM Review Panel meeting to

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review the second draft PM staff paper may be planned for August 2004.

On November 14, the **Environmental Economics Advisory Committee** met to review and deliberate upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *EPA Environmental Economics Research Strategy*. The EPA SAB was asked by the EPA National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE) and the EPA Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Research (ORD/NCER) to review this strategy.

The "Strategy" integrates relevant research conducted by EPA offices and laboratories and provides a blueprint for economic research priorities for the agency. The Strategy "...identifies priorities and research gaps, evaluates research tools, sets out strategic research objectives and suggests responsibilities and sequences for conducting or sponsoring research." These research needs were developed from an initial survey of EPA economists who identified research topics for consideration. The top ten categories identified and then evaluated by EPA staff in relation to four criteria in order to select the areas that EPA would emphasize in its research program. The selection criteria used require that the research must: be needed by EPA, state, or other clients; reflect a gap in the existing knowledge base; be scientifically feasible and potentially of high quality; and be related to EPA's mission in a policy-relevant context and be able to come to conclusions on the topic within 5 to 10 years. The selected topics for EPA's economics research focus, include: environmental (compliance) behavior and decision-making; benefits of environmental information disclosure; ecological valuation;

health valuation; and market mechanisms and incentives. The SAB's EEAC is now preparing a report that will provide advice to the Administrator and the agency in regard to this research strategy. A copy of EPA's research strategy for environmental economics can be found on the SAB's Website at <http://www.epa.gov/sab/>.

On November 24, the **Executive Committee's Multimedia, Multipathway, and Multireceptor Risk Assessment Panel** held a public teleconference to complete the approval of the Panel's draft report. Due to the unanticipated complexity of the review, the Agency's assistance was required to provide additional important analyses during the review process in response to Panel questions which resulted in the six panelists providing new or more informed comments subsequent to the October 28-30 face-to-face meeting. These newer inputs required additional time for thought and discussion. Consequently, four actions took place on the November 24 conference call: (1) the Panel was briefed on an Air-to-Canopy Mass Balance by EPA; (2) the six panelists with new or re-thought positions presented them to the Panel; (3) the Panel was notified it would receive a CD with a new uncertainty analysis on seven chemicals; and (4) the Panel reworked its schedule in the hopes of having a second draft to discuss at the upcoming December 15, 2003 public conference call meeting.

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STATUS OF FORMATION OF SAB PANELS



The Board has developed a revised Panel Formation process for the recruitment of ad-hoc review panels. For the latest detailed information, please visit our website, www.epa.gov/sab/panels/paneltopics.html.

COMPUTER NEWS



(1) SAB Website is within the EPA Home Page. You are invited to visit the SAB Website at URL: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>

The site offers such features as:

- (a) Full-text reports for FY1994-FY2003
- (b) Background information about the structure, function, and membership of the SAB
- (c) A projected calendar of SAB meetings
- (d) Recent issues of HAPPENINGS

(e) Draft/final agendas of upcoming meetings and draft/final minutes of past meetings.

(2) SAB Listserver - By subscribing to the free SAB Listserver, you will automatically receive copies of all Federal Register notices announcing SAB meetings, together with brief descriptions of the topics to be covered at the meetings. These notices will be e-mailed to you within 24-hours of their publication in the Federal Register.

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or
by faxing your request to
(202) 501-0256.

STAFF NEWS

Dr. Thomas M. Armitage joined the SAB Staff on December 15. He has held positions as a program manager and environmental scientist in several different offices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In EPA's Office of Water, he has managed programs that assist states in assessing the ecological and human health risks associated with toxic

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contaminants in sediments and fish, and pathogens in recreational waters. He has developed numerous technical and policy guidance documents addressing environmental monitoring and risk assessment. In EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, he worked on studies to assess ecological risks associated with pesticide use. Prior to joining EPA, Dr. Armitage served as a legislative fellow in the U.S. Senate, where he assisted in developing legislation related to ocean and coastal issues. He has a Ph.D. in marine science from the College of William and Mary, an M.S. in biology from the Florida Institute of Technology, an MBA from Temple University, and a B.A. in biology from the University of Pennsylvania. He will serve as the Designated Federal Officer for the SAB Ecological Processes and Effects Committee and other *Ad Hoc* Panels as appropriate.

BON MOT

Don't be dismayed at good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again after a moment or lifetime is certain for those who are friends.

Richard David Bach 1936

