

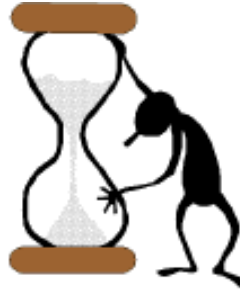
HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 8 Number 3

March 2003

EDITOR'S NOTE



Last and Final Call

At the beginning of the fiscal year the SAB Staff Office introduced a new feature, a Guest Editorial, to offer a venue where Happenings followers could express their views and insights on various issues that would be of interest to the Board and the Agency. As of today, the response from our readership has been minimal. Yet, we continue in the spirit of inclusion and would like to hear your thoughts on how to enhance communication and create a newsletter that would be more informative and more attractive to our readers.

The Board and Staff Office are entering into key discussions on how to improve the way we do business and would like to ensure your opinions are reflected in the new plan. Therefore, we pose the following questions one last time. What are some of the topics you would like to see in Happenings? And, is Happenings serving as a valuable tool for you? Please elaborate on your responses. By answering these questions you will assist us in making some crucial decisions concerning the best way to communicate our activities and products, but we need to hear from you. Please send all comments concerning Happenings to me, Vickie Richardson, at richardson.vickie@epa.gov. All comments will be considered.

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TENTATIVE SAB MEETING CALENDAR FOR MARCH & APRIL

Several of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) meetings noted below have been announced in the Federal Register (FR), together with additional background information. Readers can automatically receive e-mailed copies of FR Notices by subscribing to the SAB Listserver; see Section Updates below.

If a series of meetings is anticipated, the number of the meeting in the series is indicated in parentheses; e.g., "(#2)".

MARCH



5 F

Committee: Executive Committee (EC)
Topic(s): Review Meeting
Purpose: To review the following reports: (i) Review of the Contaminated Sediment Science Plan: An SAB Report; and (ii) Review of the Human Health Research Strategy: An SAB Report.
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. William Glaze, Oregon Health and Science University*
DFO: *Mr. A. Robert Flaak*
Email: flaak.robort@epa.gov

21 F

Committee: Science & Technology (S&T) Review Panel
Topic(s): EPA's S&T Budget Request for 2004
Purpose: To review the science and technology budget for the Agency.
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. Genevieve Matanoski, Johns Hopkins University*
DFO: *Mr. Thomas Miller*
Email: miller.tom@epa.gov

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APRIL



2 F

Committee: Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC)
Topic(s): Planning Meeting
Purpose: To discuss self-initiated project for FY2004
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. Janet Johnson, Shepherd Miller, Inc.*
DFO: *Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian*
Email: kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov

10 F

Committee: Executive Committee (EC)
Topic(s): Science & Technology Budget Request for FY2004
Purpose: To review the Science & Technology Budget Request for FY2004
Location: TBA, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. William Glaze, Oregon Health and Science University*
DFO: *Mr. A. Robert Flaak*
Email: flaak.robert@epa.gov

11

Committee: Drinking Water Committee (DWC)
Topic(s): Planning Meeting
Purpose: To receive briefings from the Office of Water and the Office of Research and Development about EPA's Drinking Water science and research program.
Location: Metro Center Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC
Chair: *Dr. Rhodes Trussell, MWH-Montgomery Watson Harza*
DFO: *Dr. James Rowe*
Email: rowe.james@epa.gov

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15 F

Committee: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC) National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (NAAMS) Subcommittee
Topic(s): NAAMS
Purpose: Pre-Meeting
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. Philip Hopke*
DFO: *Mr. Fred Butterfield*
Email: butterfield.fred@epa.gov

24 F

Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Interim Guidance on Children's Cancer Risk
Topic(s): Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility from Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens (SGACS)
Purpose: (i) To discuss the charge and the adequacy of the review materials provided to the SGACS Review Panel; (ii) to clarify any questions and issues relating to the charge and the review materials; (iii) to discuss specific charge assignments to the SGACS Review Panelists; and (iv) to clarify specific points of interest raised by the Panelists in preparation for the face-to-face meeting.
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. Henry "Andy" Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health*
DFO: *Dr. Suhair "Sue" Shallal*
Email: shallal.sue@epa.gov

29-30

Committee: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC) National Ambient Monitoring Strategy Subcommittee
Topic(s): Ambient Monitoring Strategy
Purpose: To conduct a review of the Agency's National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy
Location: Research Triangle Park, NC, Conference Room C300A
Chair: *Dr. Philip Hopke, Clarkson University*
DFO: *Mr. Fred Butterfield*
Email: butterfield.fred@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
FEBRUARY



On February 6, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) held a teleconference to conduct a consultation with EPA on the Project Work Plan for Revised Air Quality Criteria for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants. Dr. Philip Hopke, CASAC chair, summarized the purpose of this consultation meeting by stating that the EPA is beginning the periodic process of reviewing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and preparing a revised air quality criteria document (AQCD).

Dr. Lester Grant, Director of EPA's Office of Research and Development's (ORD) National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), summarized the effort that led to the current ozone work plan. The ozone and related photochemicals NAAQS were last revised in 1997, and periodic review of criteria has taken place since that time. Of particular note is the addition of the 0.08 ppm 8-hour ozone standard and particulate matter (PM) maximum standard. Efforts have focused on a review of both the ozone and PM standards, although PM is the highest priority. The ozone document for review by the CASAC was released in November 2002. A series of workshops is planned for the

next several months, as is preliminary review of the draft AQCD. Dr. Grant noted that the general flow of information is organized to correspond to the Agency's risk assessment paradigm. In addition, the recently-released report by the SAB's Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC) will be used as a framework to reorganize the discussion in Chapter Four -- in which effects at the level of biochemical and physiological processes, and continuing on to the effects on natural ecosystems, are discussed. Following the environmental effects chapter, the report moves on to health issues with a discussion of various health endpoints. Chapter Six focuses on controlled human exposure studies, and Chapter Seven on epidemiology studies of relevance to the primary standards. The NCEA workgroup hopes to move the document along quickly and submit it for CASAC review by the fall of 2003.

One CASAC member commented that, although the organization used in this document is a comprehensive way of covering all the issues in an academic environment, it does not directly focus on how each of the issues relates to risk. This member offered that a risk-based approach may be a more effective way of organizing this section, noting that such an approach was used to prepare the SAB's EPEC report last year. Another CASAC member added that it may be useful if the workgroup could provide a short supplemental work plan to reflect how a different framework would reorganize the document. Dr. Grant commented

that the effort spent in creating such a supplement may be better directed toward the report itself. He noted that the report presents ecological attributes to the extent that they are known; for some attributes, the effects are also known. It identifies some of those attributes affected by ozone; characterizes dose- or exposure-response relationships; and begins to address the risk framework. Whether to contribute further to the risk discussion is a policy decision - it can be done in general terms, but not for specific topics, such as ecosystems or areas of the country. In response to this discussion, Dr. Grant stated that the workgroup would attempt to draw from and use some of the conceptual elements from the EPEC report to reorganize some of the information. The report will include discussion on organism condition and other attributes affected by ozone, as well as on increasingly complex levels of organization, from species to populations and ecosystems. He also stated that a section on monetizing ecosystem products and services would be revised to include new information since the last document.

Public comments were presented on behalf of the American Lung Association and the American Petroleum Institute. Dr. Hopke stated that, as the workgroup moves toward the writing phase, the CASAC will need to form a new ozone review panel. He added that CASAC members could assist by nominating persons with appropriate and related expertise. The panel that reviewed the last ozone document will also be called to meet in early summer 2003 to review the ozone research needs and ozone research strategy documents, which represent the final phase of the last round of ozone standard-setting.

The minutes from this CASAC teleconference will be posted on the SAB web site (www.epa.gov/sab) in March 2003. Please contact the DFO for additional information. [Mr. Fred Butterfield, DFO; 202/564-4561; butterfield.fred@epa.gov].

On February 7, the Human Health Research Strategy Review Panel of the Environmental Health Committee met via teleconference and revised the panel's draft report and approved it for delivery to the SAB Executive Committee on March 5, 2003.

On February 13-14, the Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC) met to receive briefings from EPA's Offices of Water, and Research and Development, and to discuss the prospect of proposing a self-initiated project. Staff from the Office of Water's Office of Science and Technology briefed the EPEC on the strategy for revising the 1985 Aquatic Life Criteria Guidelines. Managers and staff from the Office of Research and Development briefed the EPEC on the use of ecological indicators in the EPA Report on the Environment, Water Quality Research, the Environmental Economics Research Plan, and the Ecological Research Strategy and Multi-Year plan. Staff from the SAB Staff Office briefed the EPEC on an SAB self-initiated project: "Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services," and the process unfolding with the SAB's subcommittee on restructuring. EPEC Chair, Virginia Dale summarized a list of topics that the EPEC will consider on future agendas:

1. EMAP

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2. The ecological valuation strategic plan (NCEE) and valuation protection
3. GPRA goals
4. 305(b), valuation framework, and watershed issues;
5. integrated framework from SAB;
6. climate change;
7. aquatic life derivation criteria guidelines and peer-review methods;
8. data and methods for comparing them;
9. prioritization of research and what criteria are;
10. cumulative impacts;
11. landscape ecology; and
12. clean sediments (consultation).

On February 14, the SAB Executive Committee (EC) Panel on the Contaminated Sediments Science Plan held its final teleconference to approve the Panel draft for delivery to the EC. The draft as delivered by Panel Chair, Mike McFarland was approved unanimously, with minor edits to the text. Dr. McFarland presented the Panel draft to the EC at the March 5 teleconference.

On February 24-25 the EPA's Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Science and Technology Review Panel met to review the EPA's Science and Technology Budget for Fiscal Year 2004.

During this meeting, the panel members heard presentations from representatives of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Office of Research and Development, the Office of Water, the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances and the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. The

members then engaged in a dialog with these representatives about EPA's science and technology programs in support of the agency mission. Members then discussed the issues and drafted comments that will become the core of their report to the Administrator and the SAB testimony before Congress. The members also had a unique opportunity to discuss issues that had been raised during the meeting with Dr. Paul Gilman, the Agency's Science Advisor and the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development. The report to the Administrator on the EPA Science and Technology budget request for 2004 will be delivered to the Administrator during April 2003. Additional information on this issues can be found on the SAB Website at <http://www.epa.gov/sab/strpanel.html>.

On February 25-27 the SAB's Radiation Advisory Committee held a meeting. The primary subjects were consultations with the Agency and other members of the Federal Work Group on two supplements to the Multi-Agency Radiation Site Survey and Investigation Manual (MARSSIM). The first MARSSIM supplement dealt with Materials & Equipment (MARSAME), and the second MARSSIM supplement dealt with Sub-Surface Soils (MARSAS). We also received an Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) program update on a number of ORIA initiatives, and addressed planning for upcoming reviews into FY 2004.

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.

SAB REPORTS IN PROGRESS



a PROJECTS DUE FOR THE APRIL 10 EC TELECONFERENCE

RSAC

- 1) S&T Budget Review

b PROJECTS DUE FOR A LATER EC MEETING

EC

- 1) Cross Cutting Risk Assessment Issues

c PROJECTS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE EC APPROVAL (CASAC & COUNCIL)

There are none at this time.

d PROJECTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED EC APPROVAL AND AWAIT COMPLETION

EHC

- 1) Human Health Research Strategy Review

EC Subcommittee

- 2) Contaminated Sediments Science Plan Review

DWC

- 3) Long Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule Proposal and Stage II Disinfection/Disinfectant By-Product (DBP) Rule Proposal

RAC

- 4) Multi-Agency Radiological Lab Analytic Protocols

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:

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

- (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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