

HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 8 Number 10

October 2003

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



A priority of the Science Advisory Board Staff Office in this new fiscal year will be to enhance communications about SAB activities and, most of all, to provide timely, accurate access to information about the Board's work.

This topic is so important, that I have directed the SAB Staff to undertake a long-term effort to redesign the SAB website (www.epa.gov/sab). They are working with the Agency's Web Development group to contact individuals who reflect the wide spectrum of users, both inside and outside the Agency, who use the SAB site and understand their needs and preferences for accessing information developed by the SAB Staff Office and the federal advisory committees the Staff Office Supports. We are looking to this Web Development group for advice as to the most effective strategies for meeting different users' information needs. That development effort is a 12-month task and I look forward to communicating with you about those major changes in the future.

In the meantime, we are close to implementing on our website a new approach that will deliver more up-to-date, consistent, and integrated information about SAB activities and products through the website. We have adopted a management database for internal updating our meeting calendar and the relationship of meetings to SAB projects, Federal Register Notices, committees and panels, and report development. Web postings will be launched from this database, so users will have contemporaneous access to the information used by SAB Staff.

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Changes implemented through this new approach may replace many of the functions provided currently by the Board's electronic newsletter, *Happenings*. We plan to have the new approach fully implemented in the next two months,

and will inform you, by means of *Happenings* and other communications, about when and how to access the new information.

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

I look forward to your feedback and your suggestions about this new initiative, as we roll it out.

Vanessa T. Vu, Ph.D.
Director, Science Advisory Board Staff Office

TENTATIVE SAB MEETING CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

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)".



OCTOBER

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1-2 | Committee:
Topic(s):
Location:
Chair:

DFO:
Email: | Executive Committee (EC)
Review Meeting
Key Bridge Marriott, Rosslyn, VA
<i>Dr. William Glaze, Oregon Health & Science University</i>
<i>Mr. Thomas Miller</i>
miller.tom@epa.gov |
| 2 | Committee:
Topic(s):

Location:
Chair:
DFO:
Email: | Ecological Processes & Effects Committee (EPEC)
Proposed Clean Sediment (Suspended and Bedded Sediments) Criteria Methodology
Key Bridge Marriott, Rosslyn, VA
<i>Dr. Virginia Dale, Oak Ridge National Laboratory</i>
<i>Mr. Joseph Bachman</i>
bachman.joseph@epa.gov |
| 3F | Committee:

Topic(s):
Location:
Chair:
DFO:
Email: | Clean Air Scientific Committee's (CASAC)
Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel
PM
Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
<i>Dr. Philip Hopke, Clarkson University</i>
<i>Mr. Fred Butterfield</i>
butterfield.fred@epa.gov |

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

9F

Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Multimedia, Multipathway, and Multireceptor Risk Assessment (3MRA) Modeling System Panel
Topic(s): 3MRA
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. Thomas Theis, University of Chicago-Illinois*
DFO: *Ms. Kathleen White*
Email: white.kathleen@epa.gov

21-22

Committee: Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC)
Topic(s): Multi-Agency Radiation Site Survey Materials and Equipment (MARSAME)
Location: TBA
Chair: *Dr. Janet Johnson, MFG Inc.*
DFO: *Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian*
Email: kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov

23F

Committee: Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis
Topic(s): Pre-meeting regarding the Review of the Revised Draft Report Analytical Plan for EPA's Second Prospective Analysis- Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act 1990-2020
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. Bart Ostro, CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

24F

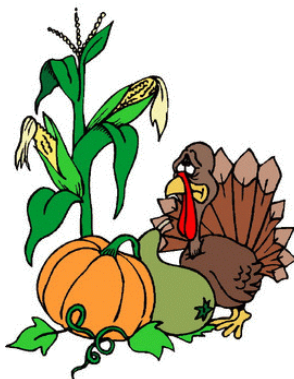
Committee: Council's Air Quality Monitoring Subcommittee (AQMS)
Topic(s): Pre-meeting for the AQMS on Clean Air Compliance's Third 812 Analysis of the Impacts of the Clean Air Act.
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: *Dr. Bart Ostro, CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

- 27** Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Subcommittee on the Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services
- Topic(s): Initial EPA Background Workshop on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services
- Location: JW Marriott, Washington, DC
- Chair: *Dr. Domenico Grasso, Smith College*
- DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
- Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov
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- 28** Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Subcommittee on the Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services
- Topic(s): First Advisory Meeting on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services
- Location: JW Marriott, Washington, DC
- Chair: *Dr. Domenico Grasso, Smith College*
- DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
- Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov
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- 28-30** Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Multimedia, Multipathway, and Multireceptor Risk Assessment (3MRA) Modeling System Panel
- Topic(s): Second Meeting on the Review of Agency's 3MRA Model
- Location: JW Marriott, Washington, DC
- Chair: *Dr. Thomas Theis, University of Chicago-Illinois*
- DFO: *Ms. Kathleen White*
- Email: white.kathleen@epa.gov
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- 30F** Committee: Council's Health Effects Subcommittee
- Topic(s): Review of the Clean Air Act Section 812 Cost and Benefits Draft Report to Congress
- Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference
- Chair: *Dr. Bart Ostro, CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*
- DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
- Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

NOVEMBER



- 5-6** Committee: Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis and Council's Air Quality Monitoring Subcommittee
- Topic(s): Review of the Third 812 Analysis and the Clean Air Act Section 812 Cost and Benefits Draft Report Congress
- Location: DC Metropolitan Area
- Chairs: *Dr. Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon*
Dr. David T. Allen, University of Texas
- DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
- Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov
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- 12-13** Committee: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel
- Topic(s): Review the 1st Revised Draft of the Staff Paper and Risk Assessment for PM
- Location: RTP, NC
- Chairs: *Dr. Philip Hopke, Clarkson University*
- DFO: *Mr. Fred Butterfield*
- Email: butterfield.fred@epa.gov
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- 14** Committee: Environmental Economic Advisory Committee's (EEAC) Environmental Economic Research Strategy (EERS) Panel
- Topic(s): EERS
- Location: DC Metropolitan Area
- Chair: *Dr. Maureen Cropper, The World Bank*
- DFO: *Mr. Thomas Miller*
- Email: miller.tom@epa.gov

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

24F

Committee: Executive Committee's Multimedia, Multipathway, and Multireceptor Risk Assessment (3MRA) Modeling System Panel
Topic(s): Review of the 3MRA Model
Location: Ariel Rios Building, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: Dr. Thomas Theis, University of Chicago-Illinois
DFO: Ms. Kathleen White
Email: white.kathleen@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
SEPTEMBER



On September 12, 2003, the Computational Toxicology Framework (CTF) Consultative Panel of the Executive Committee met in Washington, DC. Chaired by Dr. George Lucier, the Panel met to consult with the Office of Research and Development on their research strategy for applying the field of computational toxicology to environmental science. The draft Framework for Computational Toxicology Research Program in ORD ("Framework") presents a conceptual approach for computational toxicology research. The three strategic objectives of the Computational Toxicology Program are to develop: 1) improved linkages across the source-to-outcome continuum, 2) approaches for

prioritizing chemicals for subsequent screening and testing and, 3) better methods and predictive models for quantitative risk assessment. The SAB panel was asked to provide comment on all technical aspects of the research approaches and activities within the Framework and how the Framework might be improved.

The Panel focused on the overall appropriateness and continuity of the draft document with specific focus on the six charge questions which included: 1) the soundness of the general organizing principles, 2) the scope of the research program including major issues of concern and capture of key scientific uncertainties that need to be addressed, 3) specific recommendations for addressing issues not captured in the Framework, 4) priorities for the research needs and applications of computational toxicology to environmental problems, 5) sufficiency of measures to involve the larger scientific community and public and 6) adequacy of the proposed next steps to address the scientific issues in a timely fashion.

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

On September 16, the **Multimedia Multipathway Multireceptor Risk Assessment (3MRA) Modeling System Panel of the Executive Committee** held a public teleconference. The purpose of the conference call was to allow the Panel to have structured discussions to assist them in their review of the 3MRA Model System and supporting documentation.

In preparation for the conference call, some members of the Panel met in small groups to discuss validation and uncertainty. The contents of these calls were reported at the public conference call and will be captured in the minutes of that call.

The Panel discussed issues fundamental to their developing responses to the charge questions, including source terms, transport and effects modeling, validation, sensitivity, uncertainty, and ecological risk. These discussions will help the panelists prepare individual responses to the charge questions. Drs. DePinto, Merrill, Murarka, and Theis were each charged with integrating the individual responses into a single response to the charge questions which will be circulated before the October 9 conference call and will be discussed then.

On September 23, the **Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis (Council) Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis** held a public teleconference. The purpose of the teleconference was: (1) to act on the draft Air Quality Modeling Advisory on Plans for Emissions Estimation; (2) to receive a update from the Health Effects Subcommittee

(HES) on the August 27-29, 2003 meeting; and (3) to discuss the Council Special Panel draft report "Interim Installment: Review of the Revised Analytical Plan for EPA's Second Prospective Analysis."

The Council approved the draft air quality modeling advisory prepared by the Council's Air Quality Modeling Subcommittee to be sent to the Administrator. It received an update on progress made by the Council's HES in preparing a draft report on the Agency's plans for health effects analysis. It discussed substantive comments provided by Council Special Panel members on the "Interim Installment" report and identified key points for the report's cover letter.

On September 24, the **Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis (Council) Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis** held a public teleconference. The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss two charge questions relating to the Agency's draft analytical plan: Charge Question 32 relating to Data Quality and Intermediate Data Products and Charge Question 33 relating to Results Aggregation and Reporting. At the teleconference, the Council Special Panel received a report on how the Council's Health Effects Subcommittee planned to address these charge questions, as they relate to health effects. The Council Special Panel then addressed the questions as they related to the Agency's plans for addressing benefits and costs. Next steps will be to incorporate the Panel's points in the Council Special Panel draft report "Interim Installment: Review of the Revised Analytical Plan for EPA's Second Prospective Analysis."

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

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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Email: tillery.priscilla@epa.gov

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BON MOT

"If you can't get rid of the skeleton
in your closet, you'd best teach it to
dance."



- George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) -