

HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As the year progresses, the work of the Board and the SAB Staff Office is gaining momentum. There are many major advisory projects underway. On April 10, 2003, the SAB Executive Committee will be reviewing a draft report from the Board's Science and Technology Review Panel, which reviewed the Agency's Fiscal Year 2004 Science and Technology Budget. In regard to human health risk assessment, over the next two months the Board will be holding panel meetings on several new projects: *Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility for Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens*, and *Risk Analysis Plans for Coarse Particulate Matter (PM_{10-2.5}) and PM₁₀*. The Board will also be holding a public panel teleconference to begin work on a new project, *Alternatives to Leach Testing*.

The Staff Office is working to form panels on several major projects, where panel meetings will be planned for the summer: *Review of the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 812 Cost and Benefits Draft Report to Congress*, a *Peer Review of the Multimedia, Multipathway, and Multireceptor Risk Assessment (3MRA) Model*; a *Peer Review of the Economic Research Strategy*; *Review of Nominations for the ORD Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA)-2002/2003*; *Mode-of-Action Model Risk Assessments for Formaldehyde, Acetaldehyde, and Vinyl Acetate*; and the Board's self initiated project on *Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services*. Announcements of panel formation will soon be published for several additional projects: *Review of the Report for the Environment, Air Toxics Multi-Year Plan and Research Strategy*, and *Consultation on An Initiative on Computational Toxicology*.

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Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

The SAB and the Staff Office also have several major planning initiatives underway. One effort has focused on a proposal for restructuring the Board. The SAB Executive Committee and the Staff Office will be holding a joint retreat for the SAB Executive Committee and Staff Office on this topic on April 9 and 10. The Staff Office plans to publish in May a draft proposal for SAB reorganization and structural changes in the Federal Register and provide for a three-week public review and comment period. In addition the Board, and the Agency, are planning SAB projects for Fiscal Year 2004. The Agency is developing proposals for peer reviews, advisories, and consultations. The SAB's proposals for self-initiated projects involve scientific and technical projects proposed outside of the normal mechanism of Agency-requested projects and would address critical needs for anticipatory or cross-cutting scientific/technical advice. All SAB self-initiated project proposals, as well as Agency proposals will be evaluated by the Executive Committee and also by the EPA's cross-Agency Science Policy Council. .

The SAB Staff Office is planning the second in a series of public sessions on public involvement in SAB activities in May. At that session, there will be an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the draft proposal for SAB reorganization and structural changes. There will also be an opportunity to discuss other Staff Office priorities for improving public involvement in SAB processes, including efforts to redesign the SAB's public access website and the development of a "brochure" to clarify the roles of the public, the Agency, SAB Panel Members, and SAB Staff in SAB public meetings and report development.

Finally, the Staff Office is planning publication of a document, Crossroads: Meeting Challenges for Credible Science; EPA Science Advisory Board Fiscal Year 2002 Accomplishments Report. The goal of the report is to highlight the significant recent accomplishments of the Board both in terms of the impact of the science advice delivered to the Agency and the improvements made in policies and procedures at the Board. With this report, we hope to communicate the value of SAB Members' contributions in a way that will attract scientific and technical experts to participate in Board activities and inform the public about the Board's processes so they can participate more effectively in Board activities.

Vanessa T. Vu
Director, Science Advisory Board Staff Office

TENTATIVE SAB MEETING CALENDAR FOR APRIL & MAY

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)".

APRIL



2 F

Committee: Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC)
Topic(s): Planning Meeting
Purpose: To discuss proposals for self-initiated projects 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 SAB report on the Science & Technology Budget Request for FY2004
Location: Baltimore, MD, Pier 5 Hotel, Teleconference
Chair: Dr. William Glaze, Oregon Health and Science University
DFO: Mr. A. Robert Flaak
Email: flaak.robert@epa.gov

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

- 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
- 21 F**
- Committee: Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC)
Topic(s): Planning Meeting
Purpose: To discuss proposals for self-initiated projects for FY2004
Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013
Chair: *Dr. Virginia Dale, Oak Ridge National Laboratory*
DFO: *Mr. Lawrence Martin*
Email: martin.lawrence@epa.gov
- 24 F**
- Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Interim Guidance on Children's Cancer Risk Panel
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

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

MAY



12-14

Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Interim Guidance on Children's Cancer Risk Panel Subcommittee

Topic(s): Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility from Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens (SGACS)

Purpose: To review the SGACS

Location: TBA

Chair: *Dr. Henry "Andy" Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health*

DFO: *Dr. Suhair "Sue" Shallal*

Email: shallal.sue@epa.gov

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Committee: Non-FACA Meeting

Topic(s): SAB Public Session

Purpose: (i) To brief the public on the draft proposal for the SAB reorganization and structural changes; (ii) to solicit additional public comments/input; (iii) to discuss draft brochure for the public on SAB processes for meetings and report development; and (iv) to discuss SAB efforts to redesign its public access website.

Location: TBA

SAB Staff: *Mr. Fred Butterfield, Dr. Angela Nugent and Ms. Patricia Thomas*

Email: butterfield.fred@epa.gov, nugent.angela@epa.gov and thomas.patricial@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 MARCH



On March 5, the SAB's Executive Committee (EC) met via public teleconference to review reports of two SAB review panels that reviewed the: a) Human Health Research Strategy, and b) Contaminated Sediments Science Plan. Both reports were presented to the EC by the review panel chairs and then discussed. Although edits were suggested and agreed to by the reviewers and panel chairs, both reports were approved for transmittal to the Administrator. The EC Chair, Dr. William Glaze briefed the EC on the activities of the SAB's Reorganization Subcommittee. The EC will next meet via teleconference on April 10th from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

On March 21, the EPA SAB's Science and Technology Review Panel met via telephone conference to reach closure on its report to the Administrator on the FY 2004 Science and Technology Budget Request which it reviewed during its meeting held in Washington, DC from February 24 to 25, 2003. The Panel agreed

upon its final comments for the report at the March 21 meeting and the Chair and DFO were tasked with making those final edits. The report will be reviewed at the SAB Executive Committee's telephone conference meeting on April 10, 2003. Additional information on this issues can be found on the SAB Website, <http://www.epa.gov/sab/strpanel.html>.

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

DWC

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

EC Subcom.

- 2) Contaminated Sediments Science Plan Review
- 3) Human Health Research Strategy Review

RAC

- 4) Multi-Agency Radiological Lab Analytic Protocols (MARLAP)

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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3) Obtaining copies of SAB reports:
Single hard copies of SAB reports are available for distribution by contacting,

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Ms. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson
Phone: (202) 564-4543
Email: tillery.priscilla@epa.gov

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

BON MOT



Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

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