

HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 7 Number 8

August 2002

Congress is in session and so are we!



EDITORIAL

There is no editorial this month.

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TENTATIVE SAB MEETING CALENDAR FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

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)".

AUGUST



- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 8 | Committee:
Topic(s):
Location:
Chair:
DFO:
Email: | Executive Committee (EC) Subcommittee
Evaluation of the Metals Action Plan
Ariel Rios Building, Room 6013, Teleconference
<i>Dr. Valerie Thomas, Princeton University</i>
<i>Ms. Kathleen White</i>
white.kathleen@epa.gov |
| 12 | Committee:
Topic(s):
Location:
Chair:
DFO:
Email: | Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC)
Affordability
Ariel Rios Building, Room 6013, Teleconference
<i>Dr. Robert Stavins, Harvard University</i>
<i>Mr. Thomas Miller</i>
miller.tom@epa.gov |
| 15 | Committee:
Topic(s):
Location:
Chair:
DFO:
Email: | Executive Committee (EC) Subcommittee
Evaluation of the Metals Action Plan
Ariel Rios Building, Room 6013, Teleconference
<i>Dr. Valerie Thomas, Princeton University</i>
<i>Ms. Kathleen White</i>
white.kathleen@epa.gov |

28 Committee: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC)
Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel
Topic(s): Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter
Location: Ariel Rios Building, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: Dr. Philip Hopke, Clarkson University
DFO: Mr. A. Robert Flaak
Email: flaak.robert@epa.gov

29 Committee: Executive Committee (EC) Subcommittee
Topic(s): Evaluation of the Metals Action Plan
Location: Ariel Rios Building, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: Dr. Valerie Thomas, Princeton University
DFO: Ms. Kathleen White
Email: white.kathleen@epa.gov

SEPTEMBER



10-12 Committee: Executive Committee (EC) Subcommittee
Topic(s): Evaluation of the Metals Action Plan
Location: Hilton Hotel, Crystal City, VA
Chair: Dr. Valerie Thomas, Princeton University
DFO: Ms. Kathleen White
Email: white.kathleen@epa.gov

24-26 Committee: Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC)
Topic(s): MARSSIM Supplements and MARLAP II
Location: TBD
Chair: Dr. Janet Johnson, Shepherd Miller, Inc.
DFO: Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian
Email: kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov

To View a Tentative 6 Month Calendar Click Here
Or Go to the SAB website www.epa.gov/sab/mtgcal.htm

**COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES
IN JULY**



On July 8, the Executive Committee's (EC) Policies and Procedures Subcommittee (PPS) met via public teleconference to: (a) consider public and SAB Member and Consultant comments on a draft document, *Overview of the SAB Panel Formation Process*, approved by the EC in March 2002, and (b) identify next steps for the PPS. The Federal Register Notice invited suggestions from the public for additional guidance to be developed by the Board, and there were also email communications sent to contacts in environmental groups soliciting for their input. The Panel considered the only set of comments received in response to the Federal Register Notice and the communication strategy and decided to advise the SAB Staff Office to finalize the *Overview* document. The Panel asked the DFO to develop a draft evaluation/assessment protocol for the new panel formation process and provide it to the Subcommittee for review.

On July 10-12, the Executive Committee's (EC), Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Subcommittee met in a closed session to review 140 nominated scientific papers from Agency scientists. This program is administered by ORD and is open to scientists from the entire Agency, including those who are not from ORD. The SAB provides the peer review. EPA authors of selected papers are eligible to split cash awards that range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per nomination. The papers

are sufficient quality such that the Subcommittee typically recommends approximately one third of the nominations for an award (Level I, II, III or Honorable Mention). The results of the competition will be announced by ORD.

On July 16, the Executive Committee (EC) met via teleconference to discuss expanding the size of the Executive Committee, enhancing its role in standing committee peer reviews and was briefed on proposed projects for FY2003 and an upcoming Consultation on Data Quality/Reproducibility.

On July 18 the Executive Committee's (EC) Trichloroethylene Health Risk Assessment: Synthesis and Characterization Review Panel met via public teleconference to:(a) discuss substantive issues related to a draft Panel report dated July 15, 2002, and (b) to identify a process for reaching closure on editorial changes to the document to be sent to the Executive Committee for review. The Panel reached closure on how to address three substantive issues involving uncertainty factors for the RfD and RfC, the uncertainty factor for children's health protection, and how to change a section characterizing the Panel's range of views on the Agency's cancer classification. Assignments were made to panel members to develop draft language incorporating those changes. The Chair plans to send out a final version of the report for the panel to see on August 12, 2002 and then to take the report to the EC for review.

On July 18-19, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC)

Particulate Matter Review Panel met in Research Triangle Park, NC to review the third external review draft of the Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter. Chapter 8 (Epidemiology) of that draft document assesses numerous time-series studies and other types of PM epidemiology studies; and Chapter 9 (Integrative Synthesis) integrates information from the epidemiologic chapter with information from other chapters. Previously identified problems with some of the research cited in these chapters of the document were discussed, especially the role of the S-Plus statistical software often employed to fit generalized additive models (GAM) to data in time-series analyses. There were a series of invited presentations from knowledgeable scientists, as well as a public comment period. Although the focus of the first day of the meeting was the epidemiology chapter, the Panel did not reach closure on that chapter. During review of the remainder of the document on the following day, the Panel closed on two of the six chapters (Chapter 1 was not received). A teleconference meeting is planned for August 28th to discuss how EPA will coordinate efforts to update the research that has been cited in the draft document and when the Committee can expect to review the revised draft.

STATUS OF FORMATION OF SAB PANELS

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

SAB REPORTS IN PROGRESS



a *PROJECTS DUE FOR A LATER EC MEETINGS*

DWC

- 1) Long Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule Proposal and Stage II Disinfection/Disinfectant By Product Rule Proposal: An SAB Review

EEC

- 2) Risk Reduction Options: An SAB Report

EC Subcommittee

- 3) Trichloroethylene Risk Assessment: An SAB Report
- 4) Benefits, Costs and Impacts of the RCRA Subtitle C & UST Programs: An SAB Report

RAC

- 5) MARLAP: An SAB Report

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

CASAC

- 1) The Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter: An SAB Review

C PROJECTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED EC APPROVAL AND AWAIT COMPLETION

EEC

- 1) Surface Impoundments Study: An SAB Review

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-FY2002
- (b) Background information about the structure, function, and membership of the SAB
- (c) A projected six-month 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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Phone: (202) 564-4543

Email: tillery.priscilla@epa.gov

or

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

**MEMBERS/
CONSULTANTS/
STAFF NEWS**



Shari Tiandra Butler, a senior at Crossland High School in Maryland, joined us in June as a summer intern to assist the Committee Evaluation and Support Staff with processing and tracking personnel documents. Her interest lies in computer networking and after graduation she plans to attend Towson University and major in Computer Science.

Lawrence Martin accepted a four month detail in July to the SAB from the Office of Research and Development, Office of Science Policy. He is serving as the DFO for the SAB review of the Draft Contaminated Sediments Action Plan

and staffing preparations for an Executive Committee consultation on the Draft Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the EPA, and a subsequent panel review. He has background in community-based risk assessment, ORD's ecological research program, and economics research plan, and previous experience serving as a DFO.

BON MOT



A recent report that the SAB declined to review contained the following guidance to laboratory workers:

- a) When you don't know what you are doing, do it neatly.
- b) First draw your curves, then plot the data.
- c) Experience is directly proportional to the equipment ruined.
- d) Experiments must be reproducible. They should all fail the same way.
- e) A record of data is essential. It indicates that you have been working.
- f) In case of doubt, make it sound positive and convincing
- g) Teamwork is essential in the lab. It allows you to blame someone else.