

# HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 8 Number 8

August 2003

## EDITORIAL

### The Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services

As the summer enters full swing, so do preparations for the Science Advisory Board's new Ad-Hoc Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services. As chair of this exciting new Committee, I have been busy meeting with senior leadership at EPA, the Chair of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Policy at OMB to obtain their input. We want to make this Committee a success both in terms of the quality of science advice it will provide and the usefulness of that advice to decision makers facing a range of ecological protection issues before the Agency.

The history of this Committee goes back to March 2002 when the Science Advisory Board's Executive Committee called for a self-initiated project on valuing the protection of ecological systems and services. It was felt that because of the multi-dimensional nature of this effort, an Ad-Hoc Committee was needed.

The Executive Committee prepared a charge that included assessing Agency needs and the state of the art and science of valuing the protection of ecological systems and services. They also requested that critical areas for improving valuing methods and efficacious protocols for their use in decision-making be explored.

To fulfill this charge, the Committee will conduct a two-year initiative with the goal of providing a first approximation of the advice needed by the Environmental Protection Agency. We will advise the Agency on its plan to develop a "Strategic Plan for Ecological Benefits" and provide advice to different offices in the Agency interested in the Committee's views on how to strengthen the data and methods used in benefits assessments for different environmental protection activities. We will

also host workshops on science-based approaches to valuing the protection of ecological systems and service used in practice by groups outside EPA: in other federal agencies, state governments, environmental groups, business entities and international organizations. At the conclusion of our two-year initiative, we will provide a final report to the Agency that will assess overall Agency needs

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and provide advice for strengthening the Agency's approaches for valuing the protection of ecological systems and services, their use by decision makers, and the key research areas needed to strengthen the science base.

Our task is not an easy one. We will need to build on the work of other groups that have addressed this issue. From that base, we hope to identify key areas for improving knowledge, methodologies, practice, and research. We also foresee opportunities for collaboration with other federal agencies that have applied experience in valuing ecological resources.

Our Committee's work will require collaboration among economists, ecologists, engineers, and other environmental specialists, and related disciplines so that we provided an integrated and thoughtful contribution to EPA's practice in valuing ecological systems and services.

I am excited to announce that the other members of the Committee, just named this month, will be:

William Louis Ascher	Dean of the Faculty Claremont College
Gregory Biddinger	Environmental Issues Advisor, Exxon Mobil Refining and Supply Company
Anne Bostrom	Assistant Professor Georgia Institute of Technology
James Boyd	Senior Fellow Resources for the Future
Robert Costanza	Professor and Director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics University of Vermont
Terry Daniel	Professor University of Arizona
A. Myrick Freeman	Research Professor of Economics Bowdoin College
Dennis Grossman	Vice President for Science NatureServe
Geoffrey Heal	Paul Garrett Professor of Public Policy and Business Responsibility Columbia University
Robert Huggett	Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Michigan State University
Klaus Lackner	Ewing Worzel Professor of Geophysics Columbia University

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Douglas E. MacLean	Professor University of North Carolina
Harold Mooney	Paul S. Achilles Professor of Environmental Biology Stanford University
Richard Norgaard	Professor of Energy & Resources University of California at Berkeley
Louis F. Pitelka	Professor and Director Appalachian Laboratory University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Stephen Polasky	Fesler-Lampert Chair in Ecological/Environmental Economics University of Minnesota
Paul G .Risser	Chancellor Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Holmes Rolston	University Distinguished Professor Colorado State University
Joan Roughgarden	Professor Stanford University
Mark Sagoff	Senior Research Scholar University of Maryland
Kathleen Segerson	Professor University of Connecticut
Paul Slovic	Professor Department of Psychology
V. Kerry Smith	University Distinguished Professor North Carolina State University
Robert Stavins	Albert Pratt Professor of Business and Government Harvard University
Valerie Thomas	Research Scientist Princeton University
Barton H. (Buzz)Thompson, Jr,	Robert E. Paradise Professor of Natural Resources Law and Vice Dean Stanford University

This talented group of experts will have their first meeting and workshop this fall when we will discuss Agency needs as well as current tools and their use. We are eager to begin work on this challenging and important issue.

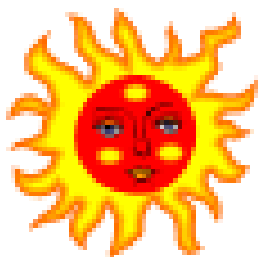
Domenico Grasso  
Rosemary Bradford Hewlett Professor  
Smith College

## 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



5F

Committee: Environmental Health Committee's Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility for Early-Life Review Panel

Topic(s): Review of the Agency's Interim Guidance on Children's Cancer Risk

Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference

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

DFO: *Dr. Suhair "Sue" Shallal*

Email: [shallal.sue@epa.gov](mailto:shallal.sue@epa.gov)

5

Committee: Public Non-FACA Meeting

Topic(s): Public session to discuss the proposal for reorganizing the Science Advisory Board and public involvement in EPA Science Advisory Board Activities

Location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue

SAB Staff: *Mr. Fred Butterfield and Dr. Angela Nugent*

Email: [butterfield.fred@epa.gov](mailto:butterfield.fred@epa.gov) or [nugent.angela@epa.gov](mailto:nugent.angela@epa.gov)

## Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

- 5-7**
- Committee: Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Subcommittee
- Topic(s): To recommend to the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) the recipients of the Agency's 2002 Scientific and Technological Achievement Cash Awards
- Location: Closed Meeting
- Chair: Dr. Debora Cory-Slechta, University of Rochester
- DFO: Ms. Kathleen White
- Email: [white.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:white.kathleen@epa.gov)
- 
- 8F**
- Committee: Council's Health Effects Subcommittee
- Topic(s): Review of the Clean Air Act Section 812 Cost and Benefits Draft Report to Congress, Teleconference
- Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013
- Chair: Dr. Bart Ostro, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
- Email: [nugent.angela@epa.gov](mailto:nugent.angela@epa.gov)
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- 25-27**
- Committee: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Particulate Matter Review Panel
- Topic(s): Air Quality Criteria Document for Particulate Matter
- Location: Research Triangle Park, NC
- Chair: *Dr. Philip Hopke, Clarkson University*
- DFO: *Mr. Fred Butterfield*
- Email: [butterfield.fred@epa.gov](mailto:butterfield.fred@epa.gov)

## Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

26-27

Committee: Environmental Engineering Committee's  
Multimedia, Multipathway and Multireceptor Risk  
Assessment (3MRA) Model System Panel  
Topic(s): 3MRA  
Location: DC Metropolitan Area  
Chair: *Dr. Thomas Theis, University of Illinois at Chicago*  
DFO: *Ms. Kathleen White*  
Email: [white.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:white.kathleen@epa.gov)

27-29

Committee: Health Effects Subcommittee of the Advisory  
Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis  
Topic(s): Clean Air Act Section 812 Cost and Benefits  
Draft Report to Congress  
Location: DC Metropolitan Area  
Chair: *Dr. Bart Ostro, California Office of Environmental  
Health Hazard Assessment*  
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*  
Email: [nugent.angela@epa.gov](mailto:nugent.angela@epa.gov)

## SEPTEMBER



12

Committee: Executive Committee's Computational Toxicology  
Framework Consultative Panel  
Topic(s): Computational Toxicology Framework  
Location: DC Metropolitan Area  
Chair: *Dr. George Lucier, Consultant*  
DFO: *Dr. James "Jim" Rowe*  
Email: [rowe.james@epa.gov](mailto:rowe.james@epa.gov)

## Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

23-25

Committee: Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis  
Topic(s): Third 812 Analysis  
Location: DC Metropolitan Area  
Chair: *Dr. Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon*  
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*  
Email: [nugent.angela@epa.gov](mailto:nugent.angela@epa.gov)

To View Calendar of Future Meetings Click Here  
Or

Go to the SAB website [www.epa.gov/sab/mtgcal.htm](http://www.epa.gov/sab/mtgcal.htm)

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES IN JULY



**O**n July 1, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC) National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (NAAMS) Subcommittee held a public-accessible pre-meeting teleconference during which outstanding questions concerning the proposed charge to the Subcommittee, the NAAMS review materials, and the logistics for the July 8-9 face-to-face meeting were discussed.

**O**n July 8-9, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC) National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (NAAMS) Subcommittee met in Research Triangle Park (RTP), NC, for the purpose of conducting a review of the Agency's draft National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (NAAMS).

The NAAMS Subcommittee was charged with providing a review of the draft strategy document to EPA on the technical bases and design aspects of the National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy. In particular, the Subcommittee was asked to provide a formal review of the following elements of the strategy: (a) the "NCore" proposal, which represents a shift toward collocated multiple pollutant monitoring stations under a new national monitoring network design; (b) the use of spatial analysis approaches for network design and other air program planning needs; and (c) the use of performance-based

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approaches for standardizing monitoring method requirements for particulate matter measurements.

Various Agency representatives — including those from the Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS-RTP/OAR), Region 5, the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL-RTP/ORD), and the National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL-RTP/ORD) — gave presentations to the NAAMS Subcommittee and also participated in this meeting. No formal oral public comments were presented.

The members of the CASAC NAAMS Subcommittee are in the process of finalizing their report on the draft NAAMS document. The full CASAC is anticipated to conduct a publicly-accessible teleconference in September to discuss and deliberate on the Subcommittee's report, after which it will be provided to the EPA Administrator. The NAAMS document is available through EPA's Ambient Monitoring Technology Information Center (AMTIC) Web site at the following URL address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/stratmem.html>

**O**n July 11, the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis' (Council) Air Quality Modeling Subcommittee (AQMS) held a public teleconference on to discuss advice developed by the AQMS on the Agency's plans to estimate emissions, a topic discussed by the AQMS at its meeting on June 12, 2003; 2) to discuss interactions with the Council at its

teleconference on July 15, 2003; and 3) to discuss next steps for the AQMS to provide additional advice to the Agency on air quality modeling.

Subcommittee members discussed a draft report developed after the June 12, 2003 meeting. The major conclusions of the report, which provided advice on the Agency's plans for estimating emissions, were the following: the subcommittee is generally supportive of the direction the EPA is taking in developing the inventory, but has three main suggestions:

1. Document in detail the methodology issues involved in the development of the inventory so they are transparent;
2. Identify areas that would yield the most significant improvement: precursors of secondary PM, particularly ammonia and carbonaceous aerosol and possibly the primary contributors to carbonaceous aerosol. These would be good areas to direct additional resources.
3. Continue to develop the important effort made in incorporating uncertainty analysis and in developing a framework for uncertainty characterization.

The Chair, Dr. David Allen, committed to discussing the report with the Council at its July 15, 2003 teleconference. He asked the AQMS to plan to provide advice to the Agency on other issues of Air Quality Modeling in September, including suggestions related to the comparison of modeling predictions to monitoring results.



**O**n July 11, 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 meeting was to discuss the Council Plans for providing advice on the Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act 1990-2020; Revised Analytical Plan for EPA's Second Prospective Analysis"with modifications provided to the Council Special Panel in early July.

The Council discussed two charge questions. The first concerned the Agency's articulation of the study goals, general analytical framework, disaggregation plan, analytical sequence, and general analytical refinements. The second discussion concerned the Agency's choices for analytical scenarios. The Chairs of the Council's Air Quality Modeling Subcommittee and Health Effects Subcommittee provided updates on their Subcommittee's plans. The Chair of the Council, Dr. Trudy Cameron, discussed plans for an upcoming July 15 teleconference and asked Panel members to circulate comments related to the cost issues to be discussed, as well as related to the charge questions discussed concerning study goals and analytical scenarios.

**O**n July 15, the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance's Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis held a public teleconference. The purpose of the teleconference was" (1) To discuss the goals of the second prospective study and the scenarios described therein; (2) to discuss the Agency's

plans for estimating direct costs ; and (3) to receive a report from the AQMS on emissions.

The Council Special Panel held an initial discussion of the Analytical Scenarios and alternative pathways described in the Agency's Analytical Plan. The Panel then discussed the Agency's approach to estimating direct costs and discounting. The Chair of the Council's Air Quality Modeling Subcommittee, Dr. David Allen, described the major conclusions of his Subcommittees draft report advising the Agency on estimating emissions. He committed to circulating a copy of the draft report to the Council Panel for review. Dr. Trudy Cameron, Chair of the Council then discussed preparations for the Council's September 23-24, 2003 meeting and the responsibilities of lead discussants.

**O**n July 16-17, the SAB's Executive Committee (EC) met in public session at EPA Region 5 Headquarters in Chicago, IL. The keynote speaker was Mr. Bharat Mather, Region 5 Deputy Regional Administrator. The EC was briefed by representatives of EPA Regions 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 on how science is used in Regional decision making. Specific presentations focused on: invasive species; concentrated animal feeding operation science; tribal science; emerging contaminants; cumulative risk; critical ecosystem model; and the 45-day review for science. Presentations were made by Regional scientists with opportunities for the EC to expand the discussions through question and answer periods. The EC did not review any reports of the committees or panels of the SAB at this meeting. The EC will next meet via

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teleconference on September 9, 2003 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Further information about the EC is available from Mr. Tom Miller, EC Designated Federal Officer ([miller.tom@epa.gov](mailto:miller.tom@epa.gov)).

**O**n July 23 and 24, 2003, the Air Toxics Research Strategy/Multi-Year Plan (MYP) Review Panel of the Executive Committee of the Science Advisory Board met in Research Triangle Park, NC. Chaired by Dr. Fred Miller, the Panel met to review the Office of Research and Development's Air Toxics Research Strategy (ATRS) and the associated MYP implementing the research strategy. The ATRS presents a conceptual approach for air toxics research providing a framework and strategic principles as the basis for ORD's research directions and priorities. The MYP develops specific annual performance goals and annual performance measures of research that must be achieved in order to meet regulatory-based long-term goals in air toxics research. The SAB panel was asked to provide review and advice on direction and management of the air toxics research programs as guided by these documents.

The Panel focused on the overall appropriateness and continuity of the review documents with specific focus on the nine charge questions which included: the regulatory and research context, key questions and research needs, inclusion of relevant disciplines in the risk assessment/risk management, paradigm, strategic principles for prioritizing the research needs, appropriateness of grouping air toxics,

implementation approaches of the ATRS within the Agency, alignment of the MYP with the ATRS, appropriateness of the long term goals, annual performance goals and measures and adequacy of the resources of the to achieve the long term goals and support the regulatory needs mandated by the CAAA.

### STATUS OF FORMATION OF SAB PANELS



**T**he 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](http://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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## BON MOT

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