

# HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 8 Number 9

September 2003

## Enjoying the Last Days of Summer!



There is no editorial this month.

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## Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

### 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 Listserv; 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)".

## SEPTEMBER



12

Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Computational Toxicology Framework Consultative Panel  
Topic(s): Computational Toxicology Framework  
Location: Marriott DC at Metro Center, 775 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Chair: Dr. George Lucier, Consultant  
DFO: Dr. James "Jim" Rowe  
Email: [rowe.james@epa.gov](mailto:rowe.james@epa.gov)

16F

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](mailto:white.kathleen@epa.gov)

## Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

23F

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

24F

Committee: Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis  
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Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference  
Chair: *Dr. Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon*  
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*  
Email: [nugent.angela@epa.gov](mailto:nugent.angela@epa.gov)

## OCTOBER



1-2

Committee: Executive Committee (EC)  
Topic(s): Review Meeting  
Location: DC Metropolitan Area  
Chair: *Dr. William Glaze, Oregon Health & Science University*  
DFO: *Mr. Thomas Miller*  
Email: [miller.tom@epa.gov](mailto:miller.tom@epa.gov)

### Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

3F

Committee: Clean Air Scientific Committee's (CASAC)  
National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy  
(NAAMS) Panel

Topic(s): NAAMS

Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference

Chair: *Dr. Philip Hopke, Clarkson University*

DFO: *Mr. Fred Butterfield*

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

3F

Committee: Clean Air Scientific Committee's (CASAC)  
Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel

Topic(s): PM

Location: Ariel Rios North, Room 6013, Teleconference

Chair: *Dr. Philip Hopke, Clarkson University*

DFO: *Mr. Fred Butterfield*

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

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](mailto:white.kathleen@epa.gov)

28-29

Committee: Executive Committee's (EC) Subcommittee on the  
Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and  
Services

Topic(s): Initial Workshop on Valuing the Protection of  
Ecological Systems and Services

Location: DC Metropolitan Area

Chair: *Dr. Domenico Grasso, Smith College*

DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*

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

## Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

28-30

Committee: Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC)  
Topic(s): Second Meeting on the Review of Agency's Multimedia, Multipathway, and Multireceptor Risk Assessment Model  
Location: DC Metropolitan Area  
Chair: Dr. Thomas Theis, University of Chicago-Illinois  
DFO: Ms. Kathleen White  
Email: [white.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:white.kathleen@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 AUGUST



**O**n August 5, the Environmental Health Committee (EHC) met via teleconference to discuss the final draft of their report on the Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Children's Cancer Risk from Early-life Exposure. The panel members discussed the latest revisions and were in agreement on minor changes to the transmittal letter to the Acting Administrator and the Report. The panel members voted unanimously to submit the Report to the SAB Executive Committee for approval and transmittal after completion of the additional revisions. The Report will be reviewed by the EC at their October 1, 2003 meeting. **On August 5, the SAB Staff Office** held the second in a series of

semiannual meetings designed to enhance public input as in Staff Office efforts to improve SAB policies and procedures. At the August 5, 2003 meeting, the SAB Staff Office Director provided a briefing on the proposed reorganization of the SAB and the Board's plan for public outreach activities. The Staff Office answered questions and informed the public about their opportunities to provide written comments on the reorganization plan.

**O**n August 5-7, the Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Panel met to review 136 papers published in the peer reviewed literature which were nominated by EPA for STAA. The Panel identified papers which met the criteria for awards at Level I, II and III and also papers worthy of honorable mention. The Panel, which was re-established this year using the SAB's new panel formation process, includes current members of four of the SAB's standing committees, former members, and

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experienced consultants. In addition to judging this year's papers, the Panel is considering whether and how to recognize the upcoming 25th anniversary of the SAB's involvement in the STAA program.

**O**n August 8, the Health Effects Subcommittee (HES) of the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis (Council) held a public teleconference. The purpose of the call was to prepare for a public meeting of the Subcommittee planned for August 27-29 meeting of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee received a brief orientation to Chapter 6 of the Agency's draft analytical plan, discussed the charge questions and draft agenda for August 27-29 meeting and roles and responsibilities of participants.

**O**n August 25-27, the Health Effects Subcommittee (HES) of the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis (Council) held a public meeting to discuss the Agency's plans for health effects analysis in the draft analytical plan. The Subcommittee received briefings on questions identified by the Chair, discussed charge questions related to health effects and uncertainty, and developed a draft report which will be reviewed by the Subcommittee and submitted to the Council.

**O**n August 25-26, 2003, the Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel of EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) met in the Main Auditorium, Building C, of EPA's facility in Research Triangle Park, NC,

for the purpose of conducting a peer review of the EPA Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (Fourth External Review Draft). This is a continuation of the Panel's review of the Third External Review Draft of this document held in July 2002. The CASAC PM Review Panel's report, comments and recommendations from this review, dated September 30, 2002, can be found on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/casac102003.pdf>.

EPA is in the process of updating, and revising where appropriate, the Air Quality Criteria Document (AQCD) for PM as issued in 1996. Section 109(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that EPA carry out a periodic review and revision, where appropriate, of the air quality criteria and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for "criteria" air pollutants such as PM. On June 30, 2003, the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), within EPA's Office of Research and Development, made available for public review and comment a Fourth External Review Draft of the revised AQCD. Under CAA sections 108 and 109, the purpose of the revised document is to provide an assessment of the latest scientific information on the effects of airborne PM on the public health and welfare, for use in EPA's current review of the NAAQS for PM. The EPA Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (Fourth External Review Draft) can be viewed and downloaded from the NCEA Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>.

The Director of the EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA/RTP) gave an overview presentation on the key revisions to the Fourth External

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Review Draft of the revised AQCD. In addition, twelve members of the public offered formal oral comments during the meeting's public comment period. The CASAC PM Review Panel will meet in a public teleconference scheduled for October 3, 2003, to discuss follow-on matters related to the revised AQCD, specifically concerning the restructuring of Chapter 9 (Integrative Synthesis) of that document.

### **O**n August 26-27, the Executive Committee's (EC) Multimedia Multipathway Multireceptor

**Risk Assessment (3MRA) Panel** met in Washington, DC to be briefed on the 3MRA model, receive technical assistance with running the model, hear public comment, share preliminary individual responses to the charge questions, and plan the activities which will allow the Panel to complete their review. Among those activities are conference calls September 16 and October 9 and a second face-to-face meeting on October 28-30.

## ABSTRACTS OF NEW REPORTS

### **Review of the draft Human Health Research Strategy for Improving Risk Assessment: A Report of the US EPA Science Advisory Board EPA-SAB-EC-03-010**

**A**n *ad hoc* panel of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board's Executive Committee met to provide advice on four charge questions relating to the strategic directions for the Office of

Research and Development's (ORD) core research program in human health risk assessment. The research directions, outlined in the Human Health Research Strategy (HHRS) document, were based on the evaluation of research needs from the Agency's regulatory and regional programs and consideration of recommendations from external advisory groups. The priority research areas identified in the HHRS document include (1) research on harmonizing risk assessment approaches, (2) research on aggregate and cumulative risk (3) research on susceptible and highly exposed subpopulations and (4) research to enable evaluation of public health outcomes.

The panel affirmed their support for the integrative, multidisciplinary approach that the Human Health Research Strategy appears to embrace. The panel suggested that "harmonization" will be best achieved by fully considering information on mechanisms / modes of action in risk assessment. The panel recommended that strategic research planning should focus on advancing such knowledge, while recognizing that "harmonization" does NOT mean that a single methodology should be used for assessment of all toxicities and pollutants. The panel agreed that focus on aggregate and cumulative exposure and risk is an appropriate and logical next step in the evolution of human health risk assessment. The panel noted that the HHRS document acknowledges the importance of reducing uncertainties in all aspects of the source-to-effects continuum, however, it would benefit from further elaboration on and a more balanced presentation of areas of research needs and, in particular, the allocation of resources necessary for elucidating the events leading up to exposure. In attempting to identify susceptible

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populations, the panel acknowledged the importance of understanding the role of predisposing factors including genetic predisposition, gender, age (particularly children and the elderly), and disease [and immune] status in determining how an organism will respond to chemical or physical agents. In addition, they recommended that contributory risks should also be included, such as, the impact of lifestyle, neuropsychological factors including stress, and living conditions, such as socioeconomic factors, passive or active smoking, and nutrition. The panel also noted that the discussion of public health outcomes was less developed in the HHRS document and therefore, it was difficult to evaluate the intended research strategy. The conceptual details of the methodological approaches to be used in the evaluation of risk management actions are needed. Furthermore, the panel also recommended that concepts of population-based epidemiologic research such as attributable or preventable risk, competing risks, sentinel health events, body burden, and other related concepts be addressed explicitly.

**The following reports are Consultations but there are no abstracts for Consultations.**

**Consultation on Multi-Agency Radiation Site Survey Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) Supplements for Materials & Equipment (MARSAME): A Science Advisory Board Notification of a Consultation**  
EPA-SAB-RAC-CON-03-02

**Consultation on Multi-Agency Radiation Site Survey Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) Supplement for the Sub-**

**Surface Soils (MARSAS): A Science Advisory Board Notification of a Consultation**  
EPA-SAB-RAC-CON-03-003

**Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Teleconference Consultation on the Agency's Project Work Plan for Revised Air Quality Criteria for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants**  
EPA-SAB-CASAC-CON-03-004

### 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](http://www.epa.gov/sab/panels/paneltopics.html).



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### 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



If you don't go after what you want,  
you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the  
answer is always no. If you don't step  
forward, you're always in the same place.

Nora Roberts