



## **Part A. Questions on the FACA**

### **What is the Federal Advisory Committee Act?**

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA or Act), 5 U.S.C. App. 2, governs the establishment, management, and termination of advisory committees within the executive branch of the Federal government. FACA ensures that federal advisory committees are accountable to the public by maximizing public access to advisory committee deliberations and minimizing the influence of special interests through balanced committee membership. In addition, the Act seeks to reduce wasteful expenditures and improve the overall administration of advisory committees.

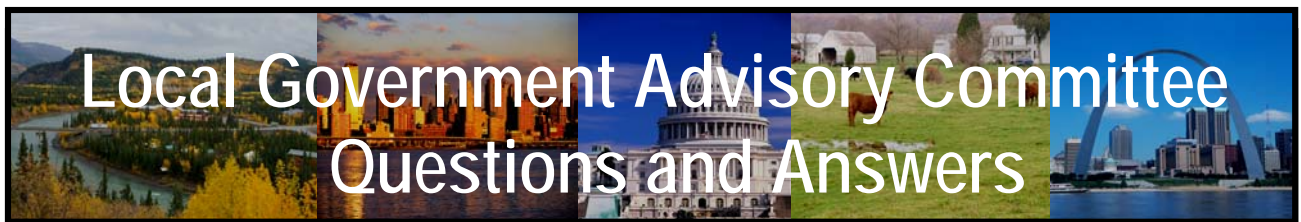
### **How does a FACA operate?**

Federal advisory committees strengthen the Agency's external collaboration processes. Moreover, establishing a Federal advisory committee can be the best approach for achieving EPA's management objectives and ensuring that advice provided to EPA is developed through a structured, transparent, and inclusive public process. EPA has a central role in the formation of a Federal advisory committee and is able to work with the committee to provide input on the substantive issues the committee addresses. Subcommittees and work groups that report back to the chartered advisory committee can further the work of the committee through collaborative processes. Agency managers and outside stakeholders generally view the advice provided by Federal advisory committees as highly credible due to the: balanced membership of the committees; thorough vetting and selection process for members; formal opportunities for members of the public to provide written and oral public comment; and transparency of the meeting process.

## **Part B. Questions on LGAC**

### **What is the LGAC?**

The Local Government Advisory Committee is a formal advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The LGAC has been in existence since 1993. The Committee is composed primarily of elected and appointed local officials, along with State representatives, environmental interest groups, and labor interests. Committee members come from various regions around the country. The LGAC provides advice and recommendations that assist the EPA in developing a stronger partnership with local governments through building state and local capacity to deliver environmental services and programs on a broad range of topics including: communications, administrative flexibility, strategic planning, regulatory innovation and reform, environmental protection tools, pollution prevention, new technologies, performance measurement, and appropriate roles of the various governmental levels in efficient and coordinated environmental management.



## **On what issues has the LGAC advised EPA?**

The Committee has drafted many reports that provided important recommendation to the EPA which have helped further the mission of the Agency. These reports were prepared and adopted by the Local Government Advisory Committee, providing crucial external advice to the Administrator and other officials of the EPA. The Agency gains invaluable insight from the local governments in administering federal programs and funding and delivering vital resources for the public. Below is a list of the reports.

- Building the Communication Network Between the Federal and Local Governments
- Support of Voluntary EPA Global Warming Mitigation Programs
- Water Infrastructure Funding
- Ozone and Particulate Matter 2.5 Standards
- March 22, 1999 LGAC/EPA Letters
- Report of the Tools and Technology Subcommittee
- LGAC Performance Partnership Pilot Project Proposal
- LGAC Communication and Structure Subcommittee Final Report
- Report of the Environmental Outcomes Subcommittee, August 1994
- Reinventing Rulemaking - Partners in Progress
- Federalism: A Local Government Advisory Committee Report

## **Part C. The LGAC Sustainable Water Infrastructure DVD**

### **What are the goals of the DVD?**

The goals of the DVD are to encourage the EPA to continue their efforts to promote sustainable water infrastructure funding and highlight the work being done in local communities. The LGAC developed DVD project recommends the EPA and other local governments make capital investments in updating aging sewer and water systems to meet current and future challenges facing our communities. It also stresses the importance of local leadership in addressing these issues.

The project profiles five real communities and demonstrates how they are meeting the daily needs for repair or replacement of aging systems, coping with population growth, addressing issues related to environmental health, and water security demands. The DVD presents some innovative options that are available and necessary to ensure water quality in the future.



For additional information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/ocir/state&local.htm> or contact: Frances Eargle

Designated Federal Official

[eargle.frances@epa.gov](mailto:eargle.frances@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3115