

Clarification: Consideration of Public Comments Submitted to the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office after November 6, 2013 (Updated – 11/8/13)

On September 24, 2013, the EPA SAB Staff Office announced in a Federal Register Notice that the SAB Panel for the Review of the EPA Water Body Connectivity Report would hold a public meeting on December 16-18, 2013, to review the EPA draft report, *Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence (September, 2013 External Review Draft, EPA/600/R-11/098B)*. The Federal Register Notice stated that members of the public had an opportunity to provide comments to the SAB Panel and that written comments should be received in the EPA Docket by November 6, 2013, so they could be made available to the Panel for its consideration.

The SAB Staff Office can only ensure that public comments received by November 6, 2013, will be provided to the Panel before the December 16-18 meeting. However, consistent with SAB Staff Office general practice, comments received after that date will be provided to the Panel for consideration as it develops its draft report. The Docket will remain open to receive public comments throughout the Panel process and in preparation for quality review of the Panel's draft report by the Chartered SAB. Public comments submitted after November 6, 2013 should be submitted to the Docket by email, fax, mail, or hand delivery (see detailed instructions in the Federal Register notice).

The SAB quality review process ensures that all draft reports developed by SAB panels, committees or workgroups are reviewed and approved by the Chartered SAB before being finalized and transmitted to the EPA Administrator. The reviews are conducted in a public meeting as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The final closing date for any public comments on the SAB's review of the Connectivity Report will be provided in a Federal Register Notice announcing the Chartered SAB meeting to discuss the draft Panel report.

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