

Summary Minutes of the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis
Ecological Effects Subcommittee (EES)
Public Meeting
April 14, 2005

Committee Members: Dr. Charles Driscoll, EES Chair
Dr. Christine Goodale
Dr. Scott Ollinger
Dr. Mark Castro
Mr. Keith Harrison
Dr. Beth Boyer
Dr. Ralph Stahl
Ms. Laurie Chestnut (Council member participating by phone)
Dr. Trudy Cameron (Council Chair participating by phone)

Date and Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm, 4-14-05

Location: teleconference

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the EES Draft Advisory posted at: http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ees_3-3-05_draft_advisory.pdf

SAB Staff: Dr. Holly Stallworth, Designated Federal Officer

Other EPA Staff: Jim DeMocker (OAR), Monica Alvarez (ORD), Brian Heninger (OPEI)

Other: Maura Flight, Industrial Economics Inc.(IEc)
Jim Neumann, IEc.

Meeting Summary

The discussion followed the issues and general timing as presented in the meeting agenda.

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Opening of Public Meeting

Dr. Holly Stallworth, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for EES, opened the meeting with a statement that the EES is a standing subcommittee of the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis, a chartered federal advisory committee whose meetings are subject to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Consistent with the requirements of FACA, and with EPA policy, the deliberations of the EES are conducted in public at meetings, for which advance public notice is given. The discussions and substantive deliberations of the panel; its interactions with the public, and the Agency, are conducted in sessions where the DFO, is present to ensure that the requirements of FACA are met (this includes the requirements for open meetings, for maintaining records of deliberations of the Panel, making available to the public summaries of meetings, and providing opportunities for public comment).

Meeting Summary

Members discussed the issues raised in Jim Democker's comments (posted as "812 Project Team Comments on March 2005 Draft EES Advisory"). In particular, the comments offered on the hedonic property value study were debated in terms of whether the source and magnitude of nitrogen deposition was relevant. The 812 Project Team pointed out that avoided future air deposition was the relevant scenario for depicting the benefits of Clean Air Act controls. The members acknowledged the validity of this point and the Chair said he would add a sentence of two about anticipated future changes in the Advisory.

The members also discussed their reservations about the proposed case study of Waquoit Bay. The 812 Project Team said the availability of water quality models was a criteria for choosing a case study. The members offered their thoughts on the range of models available and acknowledged that this wasn't on their radar screen when recommending particular case studies. The 812 Project Team said they were looking for models that would show the impacts of nitrogen on water column turbidity and submerged aquatic vegetation. Some members suggested their considerations might have been different if they were seeking information on factors like column turbidity and submerged aquatic vegetation.

The rankings shown in Table 1 of the Draft Advisory were discussed in terms of possible improvements to the low/medium/high column. The suggestion was made that the EES members might want to acknowledge somewhere in the introduction that they did not explore all the data requirements needed for a case study to get through the sequence of causal links needed to quantify and monetize benefits. Council members made suggestions as to improvements and qualifying language.

Members discussed next steps in revising the Draft Advisory before it is reviewed by the Council. The Chair asked members to think about the case study rankings presented in Table 1 and offer any revisions. Council member Laurie Chestnut volunteered to draft some edits to the discussion of hedonics. Beth Boyer was asked to write a paragraph or two on the availability of models that could be used for case studies.

Deadlines were set for revising the Draft Advisory so that it would be posted and sent to Council members prior to their May 24 teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/

Holly Stallworth, Designated Federal Officer

Certified as True:

/s/

Charles Driscoll
Chair

NOTE AND DISCLAIMER: The minutes of this public meeting reflect diverse ideas and suggestions offered by the Panel members during the course of deliberations within the meeting. Such ideas, suggestions, and deliberations do not necessarily reflect definitive consensus advice from the panel members. The reader is cautioned to not rely on the minutes to represent final, approved, consensus advice and recommendations offered to the Agency. Such advice and recommendations may be found in the final advisories, letters or reports prepared and transmitted to the EPA Administrator following the public meetings.