



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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OFFICE OF POLICY

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Chair, Economic Guidelines Review Panel
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Barbara D. Beck, Ph.D.
Vice Chair
EPA Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200nPennsylvania Avenue, NW
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Dear Dr. Graham and Dr. Beck:

Thank you for your January 7, 2020, transmittal of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board report titled *Peer Review of the EPA's Revised Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses*. I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to the SAB for the time and tremendous effort that went into its preparation. It is paramount that the agency ensures its regulatory decisions are rooted in sound, transparent, and consistent economic analysis. Thus, ensuring our *Guidelines* continue to represent the best available science and advice for EPA analysts has been a priority of mine.

The *Guidelines* establish a scientific framework for Agency analysts to perform economic analyses of environmental regulations and policies. Therefore, our draft *Guidelines* had to incorporate a broad, but comprehensive, swath of economic science. While that made drafting the *Guidelines* extremely challenging, your review and subsequent recommendations will help ensure that EPA analyses are based on quality science and that the Agency continues its efforts to implement evidence-based policies.

I particularly appreciate the tiering of your recommendations. This allows our economists to focus on issuing a final, revised document in the near term, while contemplating longer-term recommendations for future updates. We will consider each of your recommendations carefully; they will not only result in improvements to the current revision of the *Guidelines*, but they will also help shape future research and revisions.

Thank you again for your engagement on this important topic.

Sincerely,
Wheeler,
Kevin

Kevin Wheeler
Acting Associate Administrator

Digitally signed by
Wheeler, Kevin
Date: 2021.01.14
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