



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 27, 2003

EPA-SAB-RAC-CON-03-003

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Consultation on Multi-Agency Radiation Site Survey Investigation
Manual (MARSSIM) Supplement for Sub-Surface Soils (MARSAS): A
Science Advisory Board Notification of a Consultation

Dear Governor Whitman:

The Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on February 25-27, 2003 to conduct a consultation with staff from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA), and the federal MARSSIM Work Group, comprised of members of the federal U.S. EPA, U.S. DOE, DOD, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S. NRC) to review the progress to date and future plans for creating a technical manual for the MARSSIM Supplement for Sub-Surface Soils (MARSAS). It is important to note that the federal MARSSIM Work Group came back to the SAB's RAC for this consultation as a follow-up to suggestions made by the SAB's RAC in a review of MARSSIM in 1997 (See EPA-SAB-RAC-97-008, dated September 30, 1997).

The SAB has developed the Consultation as a mechanism to advise the Agency on technical issues that should be considered in the development of regulations, guidelines, or technical guidance before the Agency has taken a position. A Consultation is conducted under the normal requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which include advance notice of the public meeting in the Federal Register.

As is our customary practice, there will be no formal report from the SAB as a result of this Consultation, nor do we expect any formal response from the Agency. However, the Committee looks forward to a full peer review of this MARSSIM supplement (MARSAS) as a separate subject matter from this exercise when the federal MARSSIM Work Group is ready with their written draft within a year or so.

Sincerely,

/Signed/

/Signed/

Dr. William Glaze, Chair
EPA Science Advisory Board

Dr. Janet A. Johnson, Chair
Radiation Advisory Committee
EPA Science Advisory Board

NOTICE

This report has been written as part of the activities of the EPA Science Advisory Board, a public advisory group providing extramural scientific information and advice to the Administrator and other officials of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Board is structured to provide balanced, expert assessment of scientific matters related to problems facing the Agency. This report has not been reviewed for approval by the Agency and, hence, the contents of this report do not necessarily represent the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor of other agencies in the Executive Branch of the Federal government, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute a recommendation for use.

Distribution and Availability: This EPA Science Advisory Board report is provided to the EPA Administrator, senior Agency management, appropriate program staff, interested members of the public, and is posted on the SAB website (www.epa.gov/sab). Information on its availability is also provided in the SAB's monthly newsletter (*Happenings at the Science Advisory Board*). Additional copies and further information are available from the SAB Staff [US EPA Science Advisory Board (1400A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001; 202-564-4533].

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¹ Dr. Hornung was unable to participate in this consultation, due to a schedule conflict.

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