



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 16 2016

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Ingrid C. Burke
Director
Haub School of Environment and
Natural Resources
University of Wyoming
Bim Kendall House
804 East Fremont Street
Laramie, WY 82072

Dear Dr. Burke:

Thank you for your letter of January 26, 2016, to Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding your concern with a conclusion reached in a report (EPA-SAB-11-009) from the EPA Science Advisory Board regarding the performance of ballast water treatment systems for addressing non-indigenous species introductions to marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems of the United States.

The concern you raised with a technical conclusion in the SAB report has been provided to the Office of Water, as was a previous letter (March 2, 2015) on this topic from several members of the former SAB Ballast Water Advisory Panel. The EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy makes clear that all agency employees, including Special Government Employees, are expected to freely express their scientific views provided they are not speaking on behalf of the agency, but rather in their private capacity.

On March 31, 2016, there will be a face-to-face administrative meeting of the chartered SAB in Washington, DC. At that meeting, time is set aside on the agenda for the Board to discuss a procedural policy (and its potential application to the ballast water report) for revisiting the technical accuracy of an SAB report that has already been transmitted to the EPA Administrator. I hope you will participate in that discussion. The results of the process discussion (i.e., whether or not to discuss the scientific issues raised by yourself and others) will be described in the public SAB meeting that follows.

If the Board decides that the issue you raise with the ballast water report merits further discussion, the SAB Staff Office will plan and announce a public meeting of the Board to discuss the substance of the concern. Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of the agency and for your service on the SAB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Zarba".

Christopher S. Zarba, Director
Science Advisory Board Staff Office



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cc: Joel Beauvais, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Water
Michael Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Water
Andrew Sawyers, Director, EPA Office of Wastewater Management
Deborah Nagle, Director, Water Permits Division, EPA Office of Wastewater Management
Members of the Chartered SAB and SAB Standing Committees
Members of the former SAB Ballast Water Advisory Panel