



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

JUN 28 2010

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Deborah L. Swackhamer  
Chairwoman, Science Advisory Board  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Swackhamer:

Thank you very much for the Science Advisory Board's insightful recommendations in its report on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Draft Expert Elicitation Task Force White Paper.

Your January 2010 report will help the EPA strengthen this white paper and advance the goal of initiating a dialogue within the agency about the conduct and use of expert elicitation and then facilitating future development and appropriate use of expert elicitation methods. Since receiving the SAB'S advisory report, the Science Policy Council reconvened the Expert Elicitation Task Force. Over the past several months, the Expert Elicitation Task Force has met regularly to respond to the SAB and begin revising the White Paper.

Specifically, the Expert Elicitation Task Force plans to improve this white paper by enhancing and refining its discussions on the following: alternate approaches for aggregating information and quantifying uncertainty, the types of quantities for which expert elicitation is suitable, combining judgments and methods for evaluating the quality of elicitations, issues specific to expert elicitation versus general policy issues, and dependence effects of related values.

In accord with the SAB's comments, the Expert Elicitation Task Force also seeks to maintain flexibility in the overall implementation of expert elicitation.

With leadership from Dr. Paul T. Anastas, assistant administrator for the EPA's Office of Research and Development and the agency's science advisor, the EPA's Science Policy Council will address the SAB's comments while revising and finalizing the white paper.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Anastas at (202) 564-6620, or your staff may contact Dr. Neil Stiber, science policy council, at (202) 564-2573.

Sincerely,



Lisa P. Jackson

cc: Dr. James K. Hammit  
Chairman, Science Advisory Board Expert Elicitation Advisory Panel