



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

**OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD**

May 16, 2012

EPA-SAB-12-007

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Consultation on Proposed Updates and Changes to the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey
and Site Investigation Manual

Dear Administrator Jackson:

At the request of the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, the Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Radiation Advisory Committee, augmented with additional experts, held a consultation with agency staff via teleconference on July 26 and July 27, 2011, to discuss proposed updates and changes to the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM).

The MARSSIM is the consensus federal guidance manual on environmental radiological surveys, developed by a multi-agency workgroup that includes the EPA, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Defense. The agencies plan to revise the MARSSIM to update the treatment of uncertainties and measurement methods, discuss areas of elevated activity [hotspots and Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) standards], and incorporate other feedback from users since the last update in 2001.

An SAB consultation is a mechanism to provide individual expert comments for the agency's consideration early in the implementation of a project or action. No consensus report is provided to the agency because no consensus advice is given. The comments of individual experts of the augmented SAB committee are summarized in the meeting minutes available on the SAB website.

We look forward to future SAB review of the revised MARSSIM.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Dr. Bernd Kahn, Chair
SAB Radiation Advisory Committee

cc: Dr. Deborah L. Swackhamer, Chair
Science Advisory Board