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

MAY - 9 2007

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. M. Granger Morgan
Chair, Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Morgan:

Thank you very much for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board's February 21, 2007, recommendations for FY2006 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards, EPA-SAB-07-005. I am pleased to accept your recommendations and have already taken steps to formally announce and recognize the winners.

I also appreciate receiving SAB's recommendations regarding the current administrative procedures for the STAA program. A number of earlier recommendations were instituted for the 2007 solicitation, beginning with the first electronic receipt of the STAA nomination packages. This year we were able to forward the 142 nominations we received (a substantial increase over the earlier competitions) to the SAB on a single compact disc. Additionally, a new award category titled *Other Environmental Research* was added to capture areas of research that do not clearly fit within the existing categories. Fourteen of this year's nominations were submitted for this new category.

EPA is already implementing other SAB recommendations. We are now requiring that each STAA nomination package include a "Record of Percentage Agreement" from each co-author. This requirement seeks confirmation of the percentage of effort listed in the nomination package for each author. We also now require the inclusion of bibliometric statistics for each nominated publication (i.e. impact factor, immediacy index, and citation half-life) to further assist the SAB with its review. I will be interested in your reaction to the resulting data for next year. Finally, we have begun a review of the monetary awards and are researching other, more unique methods of publicizing STAA winners both within and outside the Agency.

My thanks to you and the STAA Committee for your continued assistance with this important program.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Johnson

cc: Dr. Thomas L. Theis, Chair
SAB STAA Committee

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