



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR  
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

June 27, 2013

EPA-SAB-13-005

The Honorable Robert Perciasepe  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Consultation on the EPA's *Progress Report: Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources – December 2012*

Dear Administrator Perciasepe:

At the request of the EPA's Office of Research and Development, the Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel held a consultation meeting in Washington, D.C. with agency staff on May 7 and 8, 2013, to discuss the EPA's December 2012 *Progress Report: Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources*.

The EPA's December 2012 *Progress Report* describes the status of its research on the potential environmental and human health implications of hydraulic fracturing with special emphasis on the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources. At the May 2013 consultation meeting, ORD briefed the Panel on the current status of its research, and the SAB Panel members individually addressed 12 charge questions spanning each of the five components of the hydraulic fracturing lifecycle, including water acquisition, chemical mixing, well injection, flowback and produced water, and wastewater treatment and waste disposal. Members discussed the charge questions and also developed written responses. The written comments of the individual experts on the Panel are posted on the [SAB May 2013 meeting webpage](#).

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 SAB understands that the agency will request SAB advice when the EPA completes a draft report of results on the *Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources* in 2014. In addition, the SAB Staff Office recognizes the need to keep the SAB Panel informed about new and emerging information related to hydraulic fracturing and the EPA ORD research project. There will be

periodic opportunities for the public and ORD to provide new and emerging information to the Panel and announcements of these opportunities will be available through the *Federal Register* and the SAB website ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)).

Sincerely,

**/signed/**

Dr. David A. Dzombak  
Chair  
SAB Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel

cc: Dr. David T. Allen, Chair  
Science Advisory Board