



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

MAY 16 2005

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Granger Morgan
Dr. Deborah Cory-Slechta
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Morgan and Dr. Cory-Slechta:

Thank you for your report titled *Recommendations on the FY2004 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Nominations (EPA-SAB-05-005)*. I appreciate the effort required to screen and review the large number of applications that were submitted, and I thank the members of the Science Advisory Board's Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Panel for their participation.

I was most pleased that you felt support for the STAA program should continue as a mechanism for recognizing and promoting high quality research in support of the Agency's mission. Your recommendations for improving the program and process will help us to increase the significance and prestige of STAA even further. We plan to incorporate many of them into the 2006 competition, which will be announced later this year.

One suggestion that we have started to implement is the increased recognition of the winners both within the Agency and outside the Agency. Although additional avenues will be explored, this year the Level I winners will be featured at the Agency's Science Forum as well as at an awards ceremony at the National Academies on May 16, 2005.

Again, thank you for your continued assistance with this important program.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Johnson".

Stephen L. Johnson