

Hello, my name is Brenda Groskinsky. I am the Science Policy Advisor and the Office of Research and Development's Science Liaison for EPA Region 7.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the SAB's Committee on Science Integration For Decision Making.

First, let me point out that EPA utilizes a Lead Region System to advance Agency programs, enhance the quality of Agency decisions, and develop more effective solutions to significant program topics, issues or problems.

Allow me to present comments on behalf of the Regions, and as a representative of Region 7, in our role as Lead Region for the Office of Research and Development, and the Regional Science and Technology (RS&T) program for 2011 and 2012.

It is Region 7's vision to make regional interactions between ORD and the regions as effective and permanent as possible, through the appropriate involvement and engagement of the regions during the early stages of issue and topic identification and development, and during critical decision-making points. These regional interactions are important to support the unique needs of the regions which cannot be addressed with a one size fits all approach. Additionally, the Regions must also work with our States in our public health and environmental protection mission.

Let me give you an example. Region 7 has been working towards enhancing the quality of Agency decisions, through the use of science, by formally facilitating regional involvement in ORD's research planning process. We have been coordinating other Regions' participation in EPA's National Research Program planning process through Regional Senior Management's appointment of representatives to the planning teams, and through Region 7's participation on ORD's "Path Forward Implementation Team".

In the Regional Science & Technology arena, we have been working to enhance the visibility of RS&T activities. It is our belief that science and technology that is not visible cannot have an impact. Therefore, communication of the RS&T activities is an essential part of our work. We are increasing the visibility of the RS&T activities during the Agency's planning process, as well as the Strategic Plan development. Additionally, we are working to enhance the RS&T capabilities of the Regions in obtaining and maintaining field activities and regional lab certifications.

Finally, as a representative of the Office of Research and Development's Regional Science Program and representing the Regional Science Liaisons and the Superfund and Technology Liaisons, thank you for highlighting our role, and the value of ORD's research and technology assistance in the Region's use of science in our decision making processes.

On that note, please let me provide you supporting information quantifying ORD's Superfund Technical Support Centers for Groundwater and Engineering and Site Characterization and Monitoring. These centers put out reports on requests for technical

assistance and we would like to highlight how these reports can be accessed. A fact sheet with additional information will be provided.

It is a pleasure to be here today. Thank you again for allowing the submission of comments on behalf of the Regions, and ORD's Regional Science Program.