

EPA and ORD Updates

Science Advisory Board Teleconference

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Excerpts from the Administrator's Response to the SAB re: FY10 Budget

- "I would like to thank you...for your comments on the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Research. In addition, I appreciate SAB's continuing interest in ORD's Integrated Multidisciplinary Research efforts..."
- "In your letter, you highlighted three issues that you believe deserve special notice...
 - *FY10 budget for Human Health and Ecosystems research.* EPA's HH&E Research programs are responding to constrained budgets and changing priorities by strategically leveraging their resources and expertise.
 - *Lack of Agency research activity and staff expertise in the behavioral, social and decision sciences.* I will ask EPA's Science Policy Council to assess the use of these disciplines across EPA's program and regional offices to determine whether there are ways to better deploy our resources to meet the challenges identified by the SAB.
 - *Rising personnel costs relative to ORD's overall budget.* We are aware of this challenge and will continue to pursue creative solutions."

Excerpts from the Administrator's Response to the SAB re: FY10 Budget

- “In response to your suggestion about the need to include other EPA offices in the SAB's research program reviews, I agree that it is time to do so. EPA's scientific activities are spread across our program and regional offices, and the Agency would benefit from SAB advice both on the science underway across the Agency and, informed by this broader context, on the ORD research program. I look forward to working with the Board to make these discussions a reality.”
- “Lastly, I appreciate the specific programmatic recommendations provided in the attachment to your letter. These suggestions will be taken into consideration as the Agency develops its longer-term strategies for research.”
- “If my schedule permits, I would like to join you to provide my perspective on EPA's strategic science directions.”
- “Thank you once again for your feedback...I am grateful for your ongoing efforts to ensure scientific excellence at EPA.”

Nov. 9-10 Meeting: ORD's Desired Outcomes

- Identify ways to create, over time, a closer coalescence among EPA's programmatic needs, ORD's research directions, and key environmental challenges.
 - In particular, those areas where ORD is best placed to address national issues, while still meeting program and regional offices' more targeted needs.
 - Also, where ORD can evolve to be *better* placed to meet these needs.

- A shared understanding of how a transformed ORD can enhance the quality and relevance of scientific information used to inform environmental decisions.
 - Since decisions are complex and multifaceted, how can ORD's research products likewise reflect integrated, multidisciplinary scientific thinking? (Process)
 - How can that scientific thinking be most effectively translated into information that is useful for decision makers? (Products)

- Agreement on a path forward for continued SAB-ORD collaboration on advancing EPA's development, use, and communication of scientific information.

Nov. 9-10 Meeting: SAB's Desired Outcomes and Draft Agenda

- What are the SAB's desired outcomes for the Nov. 9-10 meeting? Are they consistent with ORD's objectives?
- Would the current draft agenda for Nov. 9-10 advance ORD and the SAB's objectives?
- Are there any additional questions or comments?