

Dr. Allan Legge, Pre-Meeting Comments on ROE 2014 (received 7/29/14)

CHARGE QUESTIONS: Overall Comments

The expansion of the scope of the draft Report on the Environment (ROE) to include the use of the theme of sustainability is imaginative on the surface but very questionable as a solid factual scientific tool. It is very speculative and open to far too much interpretation and uncertainty. One needs to strongly question the use of the concept of sustainability as an overarching conceptual framework for representing the relationships between indicators.

The major concern with this web-based approach is the fragmentation of the environment to the reader. The draft ROE is not easy to use. There is an enormous amount of excellent information/data provided but there is a lack of perspective/context as well as any sense of integration/synthesis. The ROE should provide a sense of the state of the environment as a whole and not just a few of the pieces. The bottom line is that web-based approach did not work for this reviewer at all.