



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 21 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Erik Meyers
NACEPT Interim Chair
Vice President, Sustainable Programs
The Conservation Fund
1655 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Mr. Meyers:

I thank the National Council on Environmental Policy and Technology for its continued thoughtful and comprehensive recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on a wide range of important environmental policy, technology, and management issues. With its recent review of EPA's White Paper on Integrated Modeling for Integrated Environmental Decision Making, NACEPT reinforces the recommendations that it has provided to the Agency in the past regarding environmental stewardship, biofuels, and environmental technology. At a time when environmental challenges are increasingly recognized to traverse multiple media, stressors, and scales, EPA is committed to enhancing its abilities to ensure sustainability and treatment of the environment as an integrated whole.

The NACEPT finding that "integrated modeling is a significant cross-cutting science and technology tool" confirms EPA's vision of integrated modeling as a strategic direction that supports the Agency's science priorities. As discussed below, EPA is currently working to strengthen the use of integrated modeling to improve its ability to tackle complex issues with scientific rigor and integrity.

The Science Policy Council has directed the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling to establish a workgroup to function as an internal and external coordinating body to help ensure the most efficient and effective use of integrated modeling. Many of the complex environmental issues that we face would benefit from the multi-media and multidisciplinary analysis provided through an integrated modeling approach. Focused pilot projects to help better frame and address these issues will be considered through discussions in this CREM workgroup. Pilot projects may also support and be informed by cross-agency science.

The CREM will also lead Agency efforts to initiate and establish the Community of Practice on Integrated Modeling Science and Technology. In this regard, the CREM organized a workshop, which took place at the Office of Environmental Information's National Symposium

in December 2008. The workshop, which brought together modelers from inside and outside the Agency to identify current and emerging practices and approaches to model integration and interoperability, helped define an initial vision for the Community of Practice. EPA scientists will continue to work with our colleagues in the Federal Government, academia, and the private sector to further develop the Community of Practice and advance the state of the science and technology related to integrated modeling.

We also appreciate the perspectives NACEPT provided on technology design issues and the associated role of coordinating standards. As you know, several groups within the Agency have pioneered the development and use of integrated modeling technologies across EPA program offices in various ways. With the support of your recommendations, EPA intends to continually work to identify and implement the most efficient approaches for handling and documenting information flow in the EPA's modeling efforts.

Once again, on behalf of the Agency, I offer my thanks for the service that NACEPT has provided in helping to ensure that EPA implements innovative environmental management policies and programs that are based on the best available science.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa P. Jackson', with a large, sweeping initial 'L'.

Lisa P. Jackson