



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 10 2007

THE ADMINISTRATOR

EPA-CASAC-07-005

Rogene Henderson, Ph.D.
Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 1400 F
Washington, D.C. 20460-0001

Dear Dr. Henderson:

Thank you for providing me with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur Review Panel's comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's draft plans for reviewing the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. The Panel's comments have been extremely helpful to me and my staff as we have revised the draft plans.

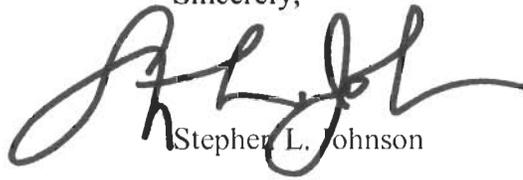
In your letter, you requested that the Agency clarify how it intends to incorporate several of the Panel's key comments into the final integrated plans for the NO₂ and SO₂ NAAQS reviews. I assure you that we have evaluated your comments carefully and will take them into account in revising the draft plans. Specifically:

- We agree that the scope of the reviews should not be narrowly focused only on NO₂ and SO₂. The final versions of the integrated review plans will reflect input from CASAC on this issue. These revised plans will define the scope of the reviews and will provide a rationale to support that scope.
- We also agree that selection of relevant studies and inclusion of the most up-to-date science are critical to the review. The Integrated Science Assessment will include discussion of the methods used to identify and select studies for inclusion in the review.
- The final versions of the NO₂ and SO₂ NAAQS review plans will reflect additional review of the terminology used. When referring to the standards themselves, we refer to NO₂ and SO₂ because these pollutants are the indicator species for the standards. However, when referring to the review of the scientific criteria on which the standards are based, we use the more general terms nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides.

- We agree that the discussion in the review plans of the risk/exposure assessments should include a discussion of options for assessing risks. The final versions of the review plans will contain this information.
- We have revised our discussion of uncertainty and variability analyses to provide additional information on how these analyses will be used in the risk/exposure assessments. This issue will also be discussed in the risk/exposure assessment scope and methods plans.
- Finally, we agree that both rural and urban areas should be evaluated for potential NO_x and SO_x exposures. This is now reflected in the risk/exposure assessment section of the review plans.

I thank the Panel again for its excellent work and will continue to consider its advice and recommendations carefully as we move forward in our review of the NO₂ and SO₂ standards.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Johnson