



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 25 2010

THE ADMINISTRATOR

EPA-CASAC-10-001

Dr. Jonathan M. Samet  
Chairman  
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee  
Science Advisory Board  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Samet:

Thank you very much for your letter providing the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Particulate Matter Review Panel's comments following the October 5-6, 2009, meeting to review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Second External Review Draft of the Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter*. EPA greatly appreciates the CASAC Panel's thorough review.

My staff carefully considered the major comments and recommendations in your letter, the extensive individual comments from the CASAC Panel members and also the public comments received by the Agency, as we revised the second draft of the ISA. More specifically, in consideration of CASAC's advice on the correlations of PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations with those of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10-2.5</sub>, EPA staff provided additional discussion in Chapter 3 to provide greater insight into the relationships between PM<sub>10</sub> and its subfractions across different U.S. locations. In response to CASAC's comments regarding the causality determinations for short- and long-term exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and mortality, EPA carefully reevaluated the body of evidence, including the collective evidence for biological plausibility for mortality effects, and determined that a causal relationship exists for short- and long-term exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and mortality, consistent with the CASAC comments.

I want to reiterate my thanks to you and the CASAC Panel members for your review of the second draft of the ISA. Your advice and detailed comments were very valuable in guiding EPA's revisions to this draft. The final *Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter* has been recently completed and can be found at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=149164>.

Lastly, I would like to thank the CASAC Panel for its continuing efforts to help ensure that the best science is used in informing EPA's air quality decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa P. Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa P. Jackson

cc: Paul Anastas  
Holly Stallworth  
CASAC PM Review Panel