



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

AUG 15 2017

OFFICE OF
POLICY

Dr. Peter Thorne
Chair
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Thorne:

Administrator Pruitt asked me to thank you for the Science Advisory Board's July 25, 2017 letter that provided the results of the SAB consideration of the Agency's approach to the development of supporting science for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's planned actions listed in the Fall 2016 Unified (Regulatory) Agenda and Regulatory Plan. The Board provided helpful comments with respect to actions that were considered. The SAB also determined that the great majority of these did not merit further review. The Update to the 2017 Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions published after the Board met to discuss the planned actions listed in the Fall Agenda.

With respect to the Risk and Technology Reviews (RTRs) for National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs) required by the Clean Air Act, we appreciate the recognition of EPA's efforts to continue to refine our assessment methodologies and the recent SAB review of our most recent update to these methods. We will give careful consideration to the SAB recommendation when the final report of the review committee is received. The Board also expressed an interest in the methods used by EPA in our technology reviews and requested briefings on the EPA's process to evaluate available technologies and achievable emissions at a future meeting. We would be pleased to work with the SAB Staff Office to schedule an informational briefing in on this topic.

The Board recommended that the Chartered SAB provide advice on Control of Air Pollution for Aircraft and Aircraft Engines: Proposed GHG Emissions Standards and Test Actions (2060-AT26) or that EPA conduct a panel peer review of the technical support documents. However, as of the Update to the 2017 Agenda, this action is listed as inactive.

The Board also requested that EPA provide additional information on the scientific basis for Emission Guidelines for the Existing Oil and Natural Gas Sector (2060-AT29). As the Board noted, EPA has withdrawn the 2016 information collection request for the oil and gas industry. As of the Update to the 2017 Agenda, the Emissions Guidelines are listed as withdrawn.

I appreciate the Board's work in support of the EPA's scientific activities and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Nicole Owens at owens.nicole@epa.gov or (202) 566-1550.

Sincerely,



Samantha Dravis
Senior Counsel and Associate Administrator

cc: Christopher Zarba