



February 11, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: CASAC Review of the *Draft Integrated Review Plan for the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide*

FROM: Erika Sasser, Acting Director /s/
Health and Environmental Impacts Division
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

TO: Aaron Yeow
Designated Federal Officer
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office

As part of the ongoing review of the primary national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), staff in EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment and the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards have prepared the *Draft Integrated Review Plan for the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide* (draft IRP). The draft IRP is being made available for review by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Oxides of Nitrogen Primary NAAQS Review Panel (the Panel). The Panel is scheduled to review the draft IRP at a public meeting to be held in Research Triangle Park, NC on March 12-13, 2014.

The planning phase for the current review of the primary NAAQS for NO₂ began in 2012, with a science policy workshop held in Research Triangle Park, NC. The purpose of this workshop was to solicit input from internal and external experts regarding the policy-relevant science issues that will frame the ongoing review. Drawing from the workshop discussions, the draft IRP presents the current plan and schedule for the entire review, the process for conducting the review, and the key policy-relevant science issues that will guide the review. The final IRP is scheduled to be released later this year and will reflect consideration of CASAC and public comments.

I request that you forward to the Panel this memo and the attached charge questions. The draft IRP is being made available to the Panel in the form of an electronic file, and is available from the EPA website at: http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/nox/s_nox_2012_pd.html

We look forward to discussing this draft document with the Panel at our upcoming meeting. Should you have any questions regarding the draft IRP or the NO₂ NAAQS review in general, please contact Beth Hassett-Sipple (919-541-4605; hassett-sipple.beth@epa.gov).

Attachment

cc: Holly Stallworth, SAB, OA
Karen Wesson, OAQPS/HEID
Bryan Hubbell, OAQPS/HEID
Beth Hassett-Sipple, OAQPS/HEID
Molini Patel ORD/NCEA-RTP
Steve Dutton, ORD/NCEA-RTP
John Vandenberg, ORD/NCEA-RTP

Attachment:

Charge to the CASAC Oxides of Nitrogen Primary NAAQS Review Panel

Attachment

Charge to the CASAC Oxides of Nitrogen Primary NAAQS Review Panel for their review of the *Draft Integrated Review Plan for the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide*

The draft IRP includes seven chapters:

Chapter 1 provides an introduction summarizing the legislative requirements, the steps in the NAAQS review process, and the history of the air quality health criteria and standards for oxides of nitrogen.

Chapter 2 presents the anticipated schedule for the current review.

Chapter 3 focuses on the general approach and policy-relevant issues for the current review, building from the key considerations and conclusions in the last review.

Chapter 4 describes the plan for the science assessment phase of the current review.

Chapter 5 describes plans for the quantitative risk and exposure assessment phase of the current review.

Chapter 6 briefly describes the current NO₂ monitoring methods and requirements for the NAAQS surveillance network.

Chapter 7 summarizes the policy assessment and rulemaking phase.

Charge questions for the Panel's consideration are presented below.

Overall organization and clarity: To what extent does the Panel find that the draft IRP clearly and appropriately communicates the plan for the current review of the primary NO₂ NAAQS and the key scientific and policy issues that will guide the review? To what extent are the decisions made in the last review, including the rationales for those decisions, clearly articulated?

Introduction (Chapter 1) and Schedule (Chapter 2): To what extent does the Panel find that Chapters 1 and 2 clearly communicate the NAAQS legislative requirements, summarize the steps in the review process, summarize the history of the NO₂ NAAQS, and present the anticipated schedule for the current review?

Key Policy Relevant Issues (Chapter 3): Building on key considerations and issues addressed in the last review, Chapter 3 presents a set of policy-relevant questions that will serve as a focus in this review. To what extent does the Panel find that these questions appropriately characterize the key scientific and policy issues for consideration in the current review? Are there additional issues that should be considered?

Science Assessment (Chapter 4): Chapter 4 describes the plan for the Integrated Science Assessment. Chapter 4 reflects revisions made to the Draft *Plan for Development of the ISA for*

Nitrogen Oxides – Health Criteria,¹ with consideration of comments received during the June 2013 consultation with CASAC.²

- To what extent does Chapter 4 clearly and adequately describe the scope, specific issues to be considered, and organization of the ISA? Please provide suggestions for any other issues that should be considered.
- Please comment on the adequacy of the expanded discussion in Section 4.4 of issues that will be considered in the ISA related to: (a) spatial heterogeneity in ambient concentrations of oxides of nitrogen, particularly near- and on-road gradients, and implications for human exposures and (b) various factors to consider in the evaluation of health effects associated with ambient NO₂ exposure, including traffic, noise, indoor NO₂ exposures, and copollutant exposures.

Quantitative Risk and Exposure Assessment (Chapter 5): Chapter 5 summarizes the key risk and exposure analyses from the last review, including associated uncertainties, and discusses our planned approach to considering the potential for additional analyses in the current review. To what extent does Chapter 5 clearly and adequately describe the scope and specific issues, including the identification of the most important uncertainties, to be considered in developing the REA Planning Document for this review? To what extent is there additional information that should be considered or additional issues that should be addressed in considering the potential for risk and/or exposure analyses in the current review?

Ambient Air Monitoring (Chapter 6): To what extent does Chapter 6 clearly and appropriately communicate, for the purposes of this plan, the key aspects of measurement methods and surveillance network requirements for the NO₂ NAAQS?

Policy Assessment and Rulemaking (Chapter 7): To what extent does Chapter 7 clearly summarize the general process for the policy assessment and rulemaking phase of this review?

¹ The draft plan for development of the ISA was released May 3, 2013 and is available at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/4620a620d0120f93852572410080d786/bc264e65792e015f85257b4a007128c6!OpenDocument>

² The individual panel member comments are available at [http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/08EF0A3789CDB13A85257B8E006A496E/\\$File/EPA-CASAC-13-006+unsigned.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/08EF0A3789CDB13A85257B8E006A496E/$File/EPA-CASAC-13-006+unsigned.pdf)