



June 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: CASAC Consultation on *Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead: Risk and Exposure Assessment Planning Document*

FROM: Lydia N. Wegman, Director /s/
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Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
United States Environmental Protection Agency

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

Attached is the *Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead: Risk and Exposure Assessment Planning Document* (Lead REA Planning Document) prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) staff as part of EPA's ongoing review of the primary (health-based) and secondary (welfare-based) national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for lead. These documents will be the focus of a review by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Lead Review Panel at a public meeting to be held in Durham, NC on July 20-21, 2011. I am requesting that you forward this draft document to the CASAC Lead Review Panel to prepare for the July meeting.

As part of the reviews of the primary and secondary NAAQS for lead, EPA's OAQPS staff has prepared a plan describing how newly available evidence, in conjunction with quantitative and qualitative analyses conducted for the previous review, informs the need for conducting additional quantitative analyses. The overall conclusion of this document is that EPA finds that the newly available evidence does not warrant the conduct of additional quantitative exposure and risk analyses for either the primary health based standards or secondary welfare based standards in this review. Instead, to inform the current review, EPA intends to consider the quantitative risk information developed in the previous review, in light of the newly available evidence. This planning document is informed by the key scientific information contained in the

document *Integrated Science Assessment for Lead (First External Review Draft)* (first draft ISA), prepared by EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). The REA Planning Document, as well as the first draft ISA can be found at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pb/s_pb_index.html.

The REA Planning Document is being made available to the CASAC Lead Review Panel in the form of the attached electronic file. The document is also available from the EPA website at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pb/s_pb_index.html. Printed copies of this document will be sent to CASAC Lead Review Panel members via US mail. Suggested focus areas for the Panel's consultation on the Lead REA Planning Document are identified in the attached.

We look forward to discussing the planning document with the CASAC Lead Review Panel at our upcoming meeting. Should you have any questions regarding the planning document, please contact me (919-541-5505; email wegman.lydia@epa.gov), Dr. Zachary Pekar (919-541-3704); email pekar.zachary@epa.gov) for questions regarding health risk assessment, or Dr. Travis Smith (919-541-2035; email smith.jtravis@epa.gov) for questions regarding welfare risk assessment.

Attachments

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Areas on which EPA would request the Lead Review Panel focus their consultation on the Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead: Risk and Exposure Assessment Planning Document

Health Risk Assessment:

1. The overview of the previous health risk assessment and presentation of results from the last review of the lead NAAQS.
2. The staff evaluation of elements of the risk assessment that were considered in determining the need for an updated quantitative risk assessment (e.g., advances in methods for modeling exposure including the estimation of air-related pathways of exposure, prediction of blood Pb, updated/refined concentration-response functions for IQ loss).
3. The decision to rely on the quantitative health risk assessment from the previous review, interpreted within the context of newly available evidence and information.

Welfare Risk Assessment:

1. The overview of the previous ecological risk assessment and the presentation of results from the last review of the lead NAAQS.
2. The evaluation of new evidence and information in light of limitations and uncertainties of the risk assessment from the previous review.
3. The staff assessment of the new information and conclusions regarding the use of critical loads modeling.
4. The decision to rely on the quantitative ecological risk assessment from the previous review, placed within the context of newly available evidence and information.