



April 14, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: CASAC Review of the *Draft Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter*

FROM: Erika Sasser, Director /s/
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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 national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for Particulate Matter (PM), staff in the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards and National Center for Environmental Assessment have prepared the *Draft Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter* (draft IRP). The draft IRP is being made available for review by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Particulate Matter Panel (the Panel). The Panel is scheduled to review the draft IRP at a public teleconference to be held on May 23, 2016.

The planning phase for the current review of the PM NAAQS began in 2015, with a science policy workshop held in Research Triangle Park, NC. Drawing from the workshop discussions, the draft IRP presents the plan and anticipated schedule for this review of the PM NAAQS, 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 advice and public comments.

Attached to this memo is the charge to the Panel, including charge questions for discussion at the upcoming teleconference. 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:

https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/s_pm_index.html.

We look forward to discussing the draft IRP with the Panel at the upcoming teleconference. Should you have any questions regarding this document, or the review of the PM NAAQS in general, please contact Scott Jenkins on my staff (919-541-1167; jenkins.scott@epa.gov).

Attachment

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Attachment

Charge to the CASAC Particulate Matter Panel for its review of the *Draft Integrated Review Plan for the Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards*

The draft IRP includes six chapters:

Chapter 1 provides an introduction summarizing the NAAQS legislative requirements, the steps in the NAAQS review process, the history of the air quality criteria and standards for PM, and the general scope and anticipated schedule for the current review of the PM NAAQS.

Chapter 2 presents an overview of the decisions made in the last review of the PM NAAQS, the key policy-relevant questions to guide the current review, and an overview of the available ambient PM monitoring networks.

Chapter 3 describes the plan for the science assessment phase of the current review.

Chapter 4 describes the plan for the quantitative health risk and exposure assessment phase of the current review.

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

Chapter 6 briefly summarizes the policy assessment and rulemaking phases of the review.

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

- 1) ***Overall organization and clarity:*** To what extent does the Panel find that the draft IRP is clearly organized and that it appropriately communicates the plan for the current review of the PM NAAQS and the key scientific and policy issues that will guide the review?
- 2) ***Chapter 2:***
 - To what extent does the Panel find that Chapter 2 clearly articulates the decisions made in the last review of the primary (sections 2.1.1, 2.1.2) and secondary (sections 2.2.1, 2.2.2) PM standards, and the rationales supporting those decisions?
 - To what extent does the Panel find that the policy-relevant questions presented in sections 2.1.3 (primary) and 2.2.3 (secondary) appropriately characterize the key scientific and policy issues for consideration in the current review? Are there additional issues that should be considered?
- 3) ***Chapter 3 (Science Assessment):***
 - To what extent does Chapter 3 clearly and adequately describe the scope, specific issues to be considered, and organization of the ISA?
 - What are the panel's views on the overall scope of the ISA? Does the planned scope ensure that the EPA will capture the scientific literature most pertinent to the ISA's focus, which is answering the question, "Is there an independent effect of PM on health and welfare at relevant ambient concentrations?"
 - What are the panel's views on the approaches outlined in Chapter 3 to streamline the discussion in some sections of the ISA? What are the panel's views on EPA's plans to

produce an assessment that is concise and forms an adequate scientific foundation for subsequent steps of the NAAQS review process?

4) Chapter 4 (Health Risk and Exposure Assessment):

- To what extent does Chapter 4 clearly and adequately describe the scope and specific issues, including the identification of the most important uncertainties, to be considered in developing the HREA Planning Document for this review?
- Is there additional information that should be considered or are there additional issues that should be addressed in considering the potential for risk and/or exposure analyses in the current review?

5) Chapter 5 (Welfare Risk and Exposure Assessment):

- 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 WREA Planning Document for this review?
- Is there additional information that should be considered or additional issues that should be addressed in considering the potential for quantitative analyses for welfare effects in the current review?

6) Chapter 6 (Policy Assessment and Rulemaking): To what extent does Chapter 6 clearly summarize the general process for the policy assessment and rulemaking phases of this review?