



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

February 10, 1988

SAB-EC-88-022

OFFICE OF  
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Lee M. Thomas  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Thomas:

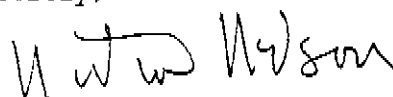
The Science Advisory Board has conducted a series of scientific reviews of Agency research programs that have proven to be a highly useful means of assessing the quality and relevance of existing research, identifying research needs and involving the scientific community in the research planning process. Such reviews have also aided internal communication within the Office of Research and Development (ORD) and between ORD and the program offices.

In FY 87 the Science Advisory Board reviewed research programs on land disposal, waste minimization, the mitigation of radon in houses, drinking water disinfectants and their by-products, municipal waste combustion, and extrapolation modeling. The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee identified needed research for planned revisions of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for lead and ozone. Board members also reviewed over 100 papers published by EPA scientists to identify those of sufficient quality and importance to qualify for EPA's Scientific and Technological Achievement Award. In September 1987 the Science Advisory Board initiated development of a research strategy for the Environmental Protection Agency. The strategy will address health effects, ecological effects; exposure; sources, transport and fate; and risk reduction.

The purpose of presenting this information is to inform you that such activities have focused both the SAB's and the Agency's thinking on research plans and needs to a degree never before achieved through preparation and review of the Five Year Research and Development Plan (Research Outlook). As you know, Congress has required that the Agency provide the SAB with the opportunity to review the plan. The Board believes that its extensive research program reviews fulfill the spirit and intent of Congress for SAB oversight of the Agency's program. Comments on specific issues in the five year plan have also been addressed in individual research program reviews.

The Board reiterates its long-standing support of research addressing problems beyond the immediate regulatory needs of the Agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Norton Nelson".

Norton Nelson, Chairman  
Executive Committee  
Science Advisory Board