



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

FEB 19 2008

THE ADMINISTRATOR

EPA-CASAC-08-002

Rogene Henderson, Ph.D.
Chair
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
Science Advisory Board (1400F)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Peer Review of EPA's Integrated Science Assessment for Oxides of Nitrogen – Health Criteria (First External Review Draft, August 2007)

Dear Dr. Henderson:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 29, 2007, regarding the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee NO_x and SO_x Primary Review Panel's October 24 and 25, 2007, review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *First External Review Draft of the Integrated Science Assessment for Oxides of Nitrogen – Health Criteria*. EPA greatly appreciates the CASAC panel's time and careful review of the complex science issues included in the Agency's draft NO_x ISA.

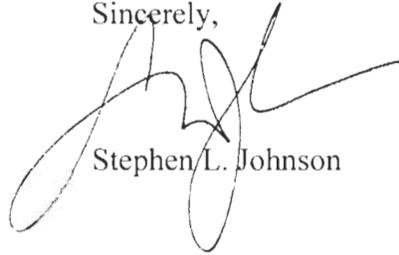
Your November 29 letter included a summary of CASAC's major comments and recommendations, as well as extensive comments from NO_x review panel members. The discussions of issues and advice contained in the panel's report have been very helpful to the Agency scientists revising the draft ISA. You noted that this was the first draft ISA produced under EPA's revised process for review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and your input will help us as we further develop and sharpen our approach to developing ISAs.

Your report raises a number of key issues on which EPA will focus as it revises the draft ISA, including better characterization of the process of study selection and evaluation in the preparation of ISAs. Consistent with your advice, the second draft ISA will include an expanded discussion of the approach to study selection and the evaluation of health evidence. A more comprehensive discussion of the framework for evaluation of health evidence, including characterization of the criteria for causality determination, will be included in the introduction to the ISA and carried through the evaluation of evidence in subsequent chapters.

In addition, per the panel's recommendations, revisions are being made in the source-to-dose discussion, the integration of health evidence to be consistent with the comprehensive framework for evaluation of health effects evidence, and the conclusions.

In closing, I want to reiterate my appreciation to you and the CASAC NO_x and SO_x Primary Review Panel members for your review of the draft ISA. Your advice and detailed comments have been very valuable in guiding EPA's revisions to the draft ISA, and your contribution to this effort will ensure that the best science is used to inform the regulatory process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Johnson", written over the printed name.

Stephen L. Johnson

cc: CASAC NO_x and SO_x Primary Review Panel
Angela Nugent