



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

October 25, 1982

OFFICE OF  
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Anne M. Gorsuch  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mrs. Gorsuch:

The Environmental Health Committee of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) has been briefed on the scientific and technical basis of the Agency's proposed regulations, published in the Federal Register on August 27 of this year, to control the use of lead in gasoline. The Committee's involvement in this issue stemmed from a briefing provided by Agency staff to the SAB Executive Committee on April 22, 1982 concerning the February 22, 1982 notice announcing Agency review of the lead phasedown program. At that meeting the SAB formally requested to review the scientific and technical basis for any decision to relax or rescind the .5 grams per gallon (gpg) standard and assigned its Environmental Health Committee the task of carrying out the SAB review.

The Environmental Health Committee has discussed the lead phasedown issue with Agency staff on July 7 and September 28. The Committee also heard testimony from representatives of environmental and industry groups.

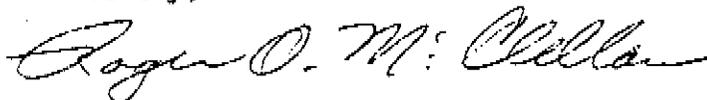
The Committee agrees that lead in the ambient air and lead emitted from mobile sources is an important public health issue. The Environmental Protection Agency as well as other government agencies that have jurisdiction over the various sources and pathways of lead exposure should continue to strive for reduction of such exposures to protect the health of the American population.

The Committee finds the analysis of scientific issues contained in the August 27 proposals is both thorough and balanced. The Committee commends the EPA staff for its recognition of the significance of lead as a public health issue, its understanding of the scientific literature for this pollutant, the quality of the discussion regarding the contribution of gasoline to overall lead emissions and the correlation between gasoline levels and blood lead levels.

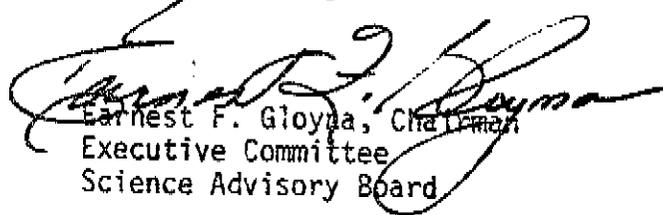
The Committee urges you to continue assessing the lead phasedown issue to enable the Agency to monitor the public health impacts of further reductions of lead emissions in the ambient air, particularly from mobile sources. The revised air quality criteria document for lead, now in preparation and scheduled for subsequent SAB review, is one appropriate mechanism to continue this evaluation.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important public health issue, and we hope that the comments and concerns expressed at the various SAB meetings and again here, have been helpful in reaching a final decision.

Sincerely,



Roger O. McClellan, Chairman  
Environmental Health Committee  
Science Advisory Board



Earnest F. Gloya, Chairman  
Executive Committee  
Science Advisory Board