



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 6 2013

H. Christopher Frey, Ph.D.  
Chairman  
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee  
Science Advisory Board  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Frey:

Thank you for your November 14, 2012, letter, in which you provided the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants, Third External Review Draft," released in June 2012 for public comment and peer review. The EPA greatly appreciates the CASAC panel's thorough review and constructive comments.

My staff carefully considered the panel's comments and recommendations and those we received from the public. Revisions, including the addition of recently published papers, were made to address both consensus and individual comments from the panel.

The CASAC panel recommended that the EPA should revise the causal determination for short-term cardiovascular effects from "suggestive of a causal relationship" to "likely to be a causal relationship." The EPA thoroughly evaluated the weight of evidence for the causal determination for short-term ozone exposure and cardiovascular effects as it relates to the EPA's framework for causal determinations. After considering the totality of the evidence – toxicological, epidemiologic and human clinical studies – and the CASAC's scientific judgment, the EPA revised the causal determination for short-term ozone exposure and cardiovascular effects to "likely to be a causal relationship."

The CASAC panel also offered advice on characterizing populations potentially at risk of ozone-related health effects. Chapter 8 was modified to clearly distinguish two broad processes that can affect risk: a greater ozone exposure and/or dose and a greater magnitude of health effects at a specific dose. Additionally, as you recommended, genetic factors are now recognized in the ISA as having adequate evidence for causing an increased risk of ozone-related health effects.

On behalf of everyone at the EPA, I offer my sincerest thanks to you and the CASAC panel members for your hard work in reviewing the draft. We will inform you when the final ISA is completed. Please know that we are grateful for your independent critical reviews to help us ensure that the EPA uses the best science to protect public health and our nation's environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson".

Lisa P. Jackson

A handwritten note in black ink that says "Thank you!" with a flourish at the end.



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Jonathan M. Samet, M.D.  
Immediate Past Chairman  
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee  
Science Advisory Board  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Samet:

Thank you for your November 14, 2012, letter, in which you provided the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants, Third External Review Draft," released in June 2012 for public comment and peer review. The EPA greatly appreciates the CASAC panel's thorough review and constructive comments.

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