



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

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THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. William H. Glaze
Mr. Daniel Greenbaum
Office of the Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Glaze and Mr. Greenbaum:

Thank you for providing me with the *Interim Review of the Particulate Matter (PM) Research Centers of the USEPA: An EPA Science Advisory Board Report*.

I was pleased to learn that you viewed the Science to Achieve Results PM Research Centers Program favorably and that you recommended the program be continued. The PM Centers are a significant component of EPA's PM Research Program and represent an important investment in interdisciplinary research. Major findings of the report – that the PM Centers have produced benefits above and beyond what might be expected from individual investigator-initiated grants and that they are likely to continue to produce such benefits through the next several years – provide essential support for our decision to continue the PM Centers program.

Your report also included useful insights and recommendations, several of which are already being implemented. For example, at this year's meeting, the PM Centers focused on identifying potential opportunities for collaboration in different research areas. Next year, EPA will work with the PM Centers on expanding the involvement of other extramural researchers. EPA will certainly rely on the report's recommendations in developing the next PM Centers solicitation and in managing the PM Centers in the future. As the report suggested, EPA will consider approaches to expand interactions between the PM Centers and the broader PM health research community, to foster coordination and collaboration between the PM Centers and air quality monitoring efforts, and to enhance systems for inter-center integration.

I appreciate the efforts of all the members of the PM Centers Interim Review Panel and the SAB staff who worked diligently to prepare a timely and thoughtful review within a short time frame. Thank you for the report and your help in shaping the future Science to Achieve Results research grants program.

Sincerely yours,

/Signed/

Christine Todd Whitman