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

April 12, 1993

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

EPA-SAB-EEC-CON-93-004

Honorable Carol M. Browner
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Science Advisory Board's Consultation on Groundwater Modeling Pathways for Radioactive Wastes

Dear Ms. Browner:

The Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on March 2 and 3, 1993 in Washington, DC to consult with the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) on the scope of the Interagency Environmental Pathway Models Project (EPMP).

The purpose of the SAB/EEC consultation was to assist the ORIA staff in bringing a uniform approach to solving environmental modeling problems common to the following three participating agencies in their site remediation and restoration efforts. The EPMP workgroup, as a part of an ongoing interagency program with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), has initially focused on exploring appropriate modeling processes for groundwater transport of radionuclides, based on site characteristics of EPA, DOE, and NRC National Priority List (NPL) sites. Dr. C.H. Ward of the EEC chaired this consultation to coordinate the discussions of the EEC and its invited consultants who specialize in modeling and groundwater issues.

The consultation focused on discussing the fate and transport issues, as well as the adequacy and completeness of the aqueous pathways groundwater modeling for radioactive wastes. The comprehensive presentation and briefings made by the ORIA staff and the spirited discussions which took place were appreciated. We trust that our discussions were useful to the participants, and we look forward to reviewing the draft technical products that may be produced in the future as a result of this consultation.

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The SAB appreciates the opportunity to assist and provide suggestions on issues such as these. This consultation clearly provided "front-end" assistance and guidance requested by an EPA program. Since this is not a "formal" review effort, the comments should not be considered advice in the usual sense that the SAB provides advice to Program Offices, and a response is not required.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Loehr

Dr. Raymond C. Loehr, Chair
Executive Committee
Science Advisory Board

Richard A. Conway

Mr. Richard A. Conway, Chair
Environmental Engineering Committee
Science Advisory Board