



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

April 18, 2017

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ana Diez Roux, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Diez Roux:

I thank you and the members of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Oxides of Nitrogen Review Panel for your comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Policy Assessment for the Review of the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide: External Review Draft*. My staff and I appreciate the detailed review and advice provided by the panel during the public meeting on November 9, 2016, public teleconference on January 24, 2017, and in your letter dated March 7, 2017.

In the final *Policy Assessment*, issued on April 10, 2017, the EPA fully considered the panel's comments and recommendations. We will be transmitting the final *Policy Assessment* to the Science Advisory Board's staff office, along with a memorandum highlighting key changes made in response to comments from the panel.

Again, my thanks to you and the members of the panel for your efforts in support of the EPA's review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the Oxides of Nitrogen.

Respectfully yours,



E. Scott Pruitt



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

April 17, 2017

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Elizabeth A. Sheppard, Ph.D.
Chair
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Oxides
of Nitrogen Primary NAAQS Review Panel
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Sheppard:

I thank you and the members of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Oxides of Nitrogen Review Panel for your comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Policy Assessment for the Review of the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide: External Review Draft*. My staff and I appreciate the detailed review and advice provided by the panel during the public meeting on November 9, 2016, public teleconference on January 24, 2017, and in your letter dated March 7, 2017.

In the final *Policy Assessment*, issued April 10, 2017, the EPA fully considered the panel's comments and recommendations. We will be transmitting the final *Policy Assessment* to the Science Advisory Board's staff office, along with a memorandum highlighting key changes made in response to comments from the panel.

Again, my thanks to you and the members of the panel for your efforts in support of the EPA's review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the Oxides of Nitrogen.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt".

E. Scott Pruitt



April 7, 2017

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Release of the Final *Policy Assessment for the Review of the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Oxides of Nitrogen*

FROM: Erika Sasser, Director /s/
Health and Environmental Impacts Division
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

TO: Aaron Yeow
Designated Federal Officer
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office

Attached is the final *Policy Assessment for the Review of the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Oxides of Nitrogen* (PA). This final PA has been prepared by staff in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) as part of the ongoing review of the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for oxides of nitrogen. A draft of the PA was released in September 2016 and was reviewed by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Oxides of Nitrogen Primary NAAQS Review Panel (the Panel) at a conference held on November 9-10, 2016. The Panel held a follow-up teleconference on January 24, 2017 and provided its advice to the EPA Administrator in a letter dated March 7, 2017.

The final PA reflects consideration of comments from the Panel, as well as public comments, on the draft PA. In addition to a number of clarifying edits throughout the document, some of the most significant changes made in the final PA are summarized below.

1. We have updated figures summarizing the NO₂ concentrations measured at near-road monitors to include more recent data than was available at the time of the draft PA.
2. We have expanded upon the discussion of atmospheric chemistry in Chapter 2, including more information on the relationships between nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), nitric oxide, other oxidized nitrogen species, and ozone. We have added a figure to help illustrate these relationships. In addition, we have added information on the programs and rules that have contributed to decreases in nitrogen oxide emissions.
3. We have added figures to Appendix B in order to more clearly illustrate the procedures for adjusting NO₂ concentrations to simulate "just meeting" the existing standards. In

addition, we added examples to Appendix B, beyond the New York/ New Jersey example, in order to provide further support for the proportionality assumption.

4. We have conducted additional sensitivity analyses to evaluate the potential for 1-hour ambient NO₂ concentrations at or above benchmarks below 100 ppb. We have specifically evaluated benchmark concentrations of 85, 90, and 95 ppb. The detailed results of these sensitivity analyses are presented in Appendix B.
5. We have expanded the discussion of data gaps and areas for future research.
6. Throughout the document, we have incorporated summaries of CASAC advice, and added a section in Chapter 5 summarizing CASAC advice, based on its review of the draft PA.

The final PA is being made available to the Panel in the form of the attached electronic file, which we request that you forward to members of the Panel. This document is also available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/nitrogen-dioxide-no2-primary-standards-policy-assessments-current-review>.

Please accept my gratitude for the advice the Panel has provided throughout our review of the primary NAAQS for oxides of nitrogen. Should you have any questions regarding the final PA, please contact Breanna Alman on my staff (919-541-2351; alman.breanna@epa.gov).

Attachment

cc: Chris Zarba, SAB, OA
Karen Wesson, OAQPS/HEID
Bob Hetes, OAQPS/HEID
Breanna Alman OAQPS/HEID
Scott Jenkins OAQPS/HEID
Stephen Graham OAQPS/HEID
Richard Wayland, OAQPS/AQAD
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John Vandenberg, ORD/NCEA-RTP
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