



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

February 10, 2004

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

EPA-SAB-EPEC-CON-04-002

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: EPA's Strategy on Suspended and Bedded Sediments: An EPA
Science Advisory Board Notification of a Consultation

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on October 2, 2003 to conduct a consultation with staff and managers from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water and the Office of Research and Development, to gain advice and recommendations on the best potential approaches to developing water quality criteria for suspended and bedded sediments. The approaches were described in a draft discussion paper entitled *Developing Water Quality Criteria for Suspended and Bedded Sediments (SABS) -- Potential Approaches*. In addition, the Office of Water was seeking recommendations on additional criteria development approaches for different types of water body uses, other than aquatic life, and was also seeking advice on any potential criteria derivation methodology not included in the discussion paper. Information from the consultation will be used as guidance for the choices EPA will make in choosing a strategy for developing water-quality criteria for suspended and bedded sediments.

The SAB has developed the Consultation as a mechanism to advise the Agency on technical issues that should be considered in the development of regulations, guidelines, or technical guidance before the Agency has taken a position. A Consultation is conducted under the normal requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which include advance notice of the public meeting in the Federal Register.

As is our customary practice, there will be no formal report from the SAB as a result of this Consultation, nor do we expect any formal response from the Agency. The discussions at the meeting along with the meeting minutes constitute the record of this Consultation.

Sincerely,

/Signed/

Dr. William Glaze, Chair
EPA Science Advisory Board

/Signed/

Dr. Virginia Dale, Chair
Ecological Processes and Effects Committee
EPA Science Advisory Board

NOTICE

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Dr. Judy L. Meyer, Distinguished Research Professor, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Dr. Michael C. Newman, Professor of Marine Science, School of Marine Sciences, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary, Gloucester Point, VA

Dr. Charles A. Pittinger, Principal, The Cadmus Group Inc., Cincinnati, OH

CONSULTANTS

Dr. Brian Bledsoe, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, Civil Engineering, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Dr. Charles Rabeni, U.S. Geological Survey, Leader of the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Missouri - Columbia, Columbia, MO

Mr. Timothy Thompson, Engineer/Scientist, The RETEC Group, Seattle, WA

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Mr. Thomas Miller, Designated Federal Officer, EPA Science Advisory Board (1400A), 1200
Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460