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

MAY 21 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Jonathan Samet, M.D.
Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 1400F
Washington, D.C. 20460-0001

Dear Dr. Samet:

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards play a central role in enabling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fulfill its mission to protect the nation's public health and the environment. It is critical that these standards are grounded in science.

With this in mind, I have examined the process that the Agency uses to review and update the NAAQS to ensure it takes into account the latest peer-reviewed science and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's expert advice on the science and the standards. Based on that review, I have set out a process that I believe will ensure the timeliness, scientific integrity, and transparency of the NAAQS review process. I believe this new NAAQS review process incorporates important improvements and recognizes CASAC's important role in advising the Agency.

I am preserving previous changes that contribute to ensuring the timeliness, scientific integrity, and transparency of the review process, such as the kickoff workshop, the integrated review plan, and more concise, policy-relevant assessments of science, and risk and exposure. Many of these changes were based on CASAC's recommendations. At the same time, however, I am discontinuing the use of an advance notice of proposed rulemaking, which was the subject of strong concerns on the part of CASAC and others. In its place, I will reinstate the use of a policy assessment document prepared by EPA staff.

The enclosed memorandum presents my conclusions and decisions regarding the NAAQS review process, taking into consideration the Agency's experience in implementing the latest changes made to the process, as well as CASAC's recommendations.

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CASAC plays a key role in providing independent expert judgment and advice to the Agency on the complex scientific issues that are central to our reviews of the NAAQS. Please extend my appreciation to the CASAC members for your continuing efforts to work with EPA to review the NAAQS in a manner that ensures scientific integrity through an open and transparent process.

Sincerely,

Lisa P. Jackson

Enclosure