



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

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OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

April 29, 1991

Honorable William K. Reilly
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Science Advisory Board's Consultation
on Review of Selection Criteria for Partici-
pation of EPA Staff on the Proposed Agency Task
Force on Modeling

Dear Mr. Reilly:

The Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) met at EPA's Washington, D.C. Headquarters on February 7, 1991 to consult with the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Information Management (IM) staff on recommendations related to appropriate selection criteria for participation of EPA Staff on the proposed Agency Task Force on Modeling. It is envisioned that the proposed Task Force will be the first step in establishing an Agency-wide Panel to assess and manage the use of models by the EPA by directing activities and determining guidelines for verification and validation of models, and by establishing acceptance criteria for use of models in EPA programs.

The Committee provided responses to the OSWER/IM staff and their support contractor at the meeting, and later provided written information in a letter to Asa Frost, Director of Information Management in OSWER.

The EEC suggested modest changes to the selection criteria for EPA staff proposed by the OSWER/IM for the planned Agency-wide Task Force on Modeling. Specific comments also were provided dealing with the overall composition and organization of the Task Force.

The EEC would like to take this opportunity to state that it strongly supports the initiative taken by the OSWER/IM in proposing the Agency Task Force on Modeling and notes that this activity implements one of the major recommendations of the SAB's Resolution on Use of Mathematical Models by EPA for Regulatory Assessment and Decision-Making (EPA-SAB-EEC-89-012). The modeling resolution states that "...An Agency-wide task-group to assess and guide model use by EPA should be formed." We thus commend the IM staff for taking such an initiative within OSWER, and further support OSWER's efforts to extend the OSWER activity Agency-wide.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist and provide suggestions on issues such as these. This consultation 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 we give advice to Program Offices, and a response is not required.

Raymond C. Loehr

Raymond C. Loehr, Chairman
Executive Committee
Science Advisory Board

Richard A. Conway

Richard A. Conway, Chairman
Environmental Engineering Committee
Science Advisory Board

Mitchell J. Small

Mitchell J. Small, Chairman
OSWER Modeling Project Subcommittee
Science Advisory Board