



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

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THE ADMINISTRATOR

William H. Glaze, Ph.D.  
Chair, Science Advisory Board  
Maureen L. Cropper, Ph.D.  
Chair, Arsenic Rule Benefits Review Panel  
Mail Code 1400A  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Glaze and Dr. Cropper:

Thank you for sending me the final report of the Science Advisory Board's Arsenic Rule Benefits Review Panel.

Tackling an extremely complex and contentious set of issues, the panel employed impressive technical acumen and displayed exemplary professionalism in delivering an extremely high-quality report on schedule. The final report, which is clear in its presentation, responsive to the panel's charge, and insightful in its conclusions, contributed greatly to our better understanding of the many issues that underlie the arsenic in drinking water regulation and played a key role in the Agency's decision on the final arsenic standard. For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the October 31, 2001, press release announcing that the arsenic maximum contaminant level will be set at 10 parts per billion.

The panel's work will provide an important framework for use in improving regulatory benefit estimates. In this regard, we will be incorporating the panel's recommendations on non-quantified health endpoints in future analyses. EPA also will be addressing the issue of a cancer latency in a more sophisticated fashion by incorporating a cessation lag in the benefits latency analysis for some future benefit-cost analyses (e.g., radon). In addition, the Agency is planning to explore a range of values for the valuation of non-fatal cancers in future analyses, where previously we relied on a point estimate for willingness to pay to avoid chronic bronchitis. These and other panel recommendations will greatly enhance benefit analyses for future regulatory efforts.

Again, my thanks to you and your colleagues for the panel's high-quality report.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Christine Todd Whitman

Enclosure