



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 01 2016

Ana V. Diez Roux, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairwoman
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 want to thank you and all the members of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Particulate Matter Review Panel for your comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Draft Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter." My colleagues and I appreciate the review and the detailed information and advice provided during the public teleconferences on May 23, 2016, and August 9, 2016, and in your August 31, 2016, letter.

As the EPA works to finalize the integrated review plan for the review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter, we will thoughtfully consider the panel's comments and recommendations as well as those from the public. We will transmit the final document to the Science Advisory Board's staff office along with a memorandum highlighting the revisions made in response to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's comments.

The EPA looks forward to continuing to work with the panel as the agency develops the integrated science assessment and other documents to support the review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter.

In the meantime, please accept my appreciation for your efforts and your expertise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy".

Gina McCarthy



December 5, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Release of the Final *Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter*

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

As part of the ongoing review of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for Particulate Matter (PM), staff in the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards and National Center for Environmental Assessment have prepared the final document, *Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter* (IRP). The IRP is being made available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/particulate-matter-pm-standards-planning-documents-current-review>.

The planning phase for the current review of the PM NAAQS began in 2015, with a science policy workshop held in Research Triangle Park, NC. Drawing from the workshop discussions, a draft IRP presented the anticipated schedule for this review of the PM NAAQS, the planned approaches to developing key assessment documents, and the policy-relevant science issues anticipated to guide the review. The draft IRP was reviewed by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Particulate Matter Panel (the Panel) at a teleconference held on May 23, 2016. The Panel held a follow-up teleconference on August 9, 2016 and the Chartered CASAC provided its advice to the EPA Administrator in a letter dated August 31, 2016.

The final IRP being released today incorporates a number of changes from the draft IRP, reflecting the CASAC's advice and the public input received. We appreciate the Panel's review, which contributed to improvements in the final IRP. Some of the most significant changes made for the final IRP are summarized below.

1. We have modified and clarified the scope of this review of the PM-related welfare effects evidence and of the secondary standards for PM. Specifically, this review will address PM-related visibility impairment, climate effects, and materials effects (i.e., damage and soiling). The ecological effects of PM deposition are being addressed in a separate,

ongoing review focused on the secondary NAAQS for oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulfur, and PM.

2. We have expanded discussions of the legislative requirements for the NAAQS and the history of the PM NAAQS, the data gaps identified by the EPA and the CASAC in the last review, and the issues addressed at the kickoff workshop for the current review.
3. We have expanded the discussion of our approach to evaluating study quality in the ISA, and we have further clarified the policy-relevant questions to be addressed in the ISA.
4. We have added text and figures to clarify our planned approach to considering the degree to which new or updated quantitative assessments are supported in the current review. In addition, we have added clarifying language on the potential utility of the various types of quantitative assessments.

Our current schedule calls for the release of a first draft Integrated Science Assessment and the release of Health and Welfare Risk and Exposure Assessment Planning Documents in the Fall of 2017. We anticipate that these documents will be reviewed by the Panel in early 2018. We look forward to further discussions with the Panel as this review of the PM NAAQS progresses. Should you have any questions regarding the final IRP, or the review of the PM NAAQS in general, please contact Scott Jenkins on my staff (919-541-1167; jenkins.scott@epa.gov).

Attachment

cc: Karen Wesson, OAQPS/HEID
Bob Hetes, OAQPS/HEID
Scott Jenkins, OAQPS/HEID
Nicole Hagan, OAQPS/HEID
Zachary Pekar, OAQPS/HEID
John Vandenberg, ORD/NCEA-RTP
Steve Dutton, ORD/NCEA-RTP
Jason Sacks ORD/NCEA-RTP