



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

May 31, 1985

Honorable Lee M. Thomas
Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20460

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The Science Advisory Board's Executive Committee received a briefing on April 26 on the Agency's draft study entitled "The Magnitude and Nature of the Air Toxics Problem in the United States." The briefing was conducted by Ms. Vivian Thomson of the Office of Air and Radiation. The study is an ambitious attempt to better define the exposures of toxic air pollutants to the American public and, given the purpose of the study as a problem definition or scoping effort, it represents a successful first step.

The Committee wishes to commend the Agency for undertaking this initiative and has three recommendations for further developing this type of analysis. These include:

- o Extending the study to evaluate health endpoints other than cancer; discussing the interaction of pollutant exposures with lifestyle factors, including smoking; and carrying out a fuller evaluation of the contribution of indoor air pollution to total human exposures from toxic air pollutants.
- o Requesting the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council to undertake a fuller assessment of the toxic air pollution problem and its public health consequences.
- o Utilizing the current Agency study as a source of ideas for the Agency's Air Research Committee to plan the research agenda for toxic air pollutants.

The Science Advisory Board is interested in keeping apprised of future Agency activities to address the air toxics problem. To the extent that you believe it can make a useful contribution in improving your staff's technical analyses in this area, the Board would be interested in participating.

Sincerely,

Norton Nelson, Chairman
Science Advisory Board