



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON D.C. 20460

November 26, 2003

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel's Review of the Agency's *Fourth External Review Draft of Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (June 2003)*

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), supplemented by expert consultants — collectively referred to as the CASAC Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel ("Panel") — met on August 25-26, to review the two-volume, June 2003 draft document, *Fourth External Review Draft EPA Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter* (EPA/600/P-99/002, aD, bD) in a public meeting held at the EPA facility in Research Triangle Park, NC. This was the fourth CASAC review of the draft Air Quality Criteria Document (AQCD) for PM in the current cycle for reviewing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM. The CASAC was established under section 109(d)(2) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409) as an independent scientific advisory committee, in part to provide advice, information and recommendations on the scientific and technical aspects of issues related to air quality criteria and NAAQS under sections 108 and 109 of the Act. As noted below, the CASAC PM Review Panel felt that this version of the draft document, while substantially improved over the Third External Review Draft, required additional revisions — to include a completely rewritten integrative synthesis (Chapter 9) — before it could be deemed to represent an acceptable summary of the current science on particulate matter.

1. Background

EPA is in the process of updating, and revising where appropriate, the AQCD for PM as issued in 1996. Section 109(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that EPA carry out a periodic review and revision, where appropriate, of the air quality criteria and the NAAQS for "criteria" air pollutants such as PM.

