UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

EPA-SAB-Ltr-90-005

August 15, 1990

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Dear Mr. Reilly:

The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) has completed a consultation on Ecological Risk Assessment Guidelines with the Risk Assessment Forum of the Office of Research and Development. The SAB has developed consultation as mechanism to advise the Agency on the technical issues that should be considered in the development of regulations, guidelines, or technical guidance before the Agency has taken a position. A consultation is conducted under the normal FACA requirements, which include advance notice of the public meeting in the Federal Register.

The Committee met once with the staff of the Risk Assessment Forum on May 7, 1990 to discuss general questions related to the principles and controversial issues that could be addressed in ecological risk assessment guidelines. The Forum and the Committee interacted in a collegial manner, not a judgmental one. In keeping with the SAB concept of a consultation, there was no attempt to develop a consensus of opinion with EPA or within the Committee. However, the Committee believes that the consultation achieved its goal by discussing several views and priorities that EPA could consider in its ecological risk assessment guidelines. All of the Committee's thoughts were provided directly to the Risk Assessment Forum at the meeting. There will be no formal report from the SAB as result of this consultation nor do we expect any formal response from the Agency.

We look forward to advising the Agency in the future by consultations as well as through more formal scientific reviews.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Loehr, Chairman
Executive Committee
Science Advisory Board

Dr. Kenneth Dickson, Chairman
Ecological Processes
Effect Committee