



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 13, 2020

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Louis Anthony Cox, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

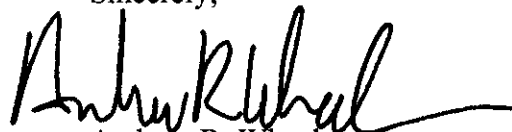
Dear Dr. Cox:

Thank you for your December 16, 2019, letter conveying the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Review of the *EPA's Policy Assessment for the Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (External Draft – September 2019)*.

I want to convey my appreciation to you and the CASAC members for your time and efforts. The CASAC's thorough review and comments were very helpful in preparing the final policy assessment, which was released on January 27, 2020. Your comments will also be helpful as the agency moves into the rulemaking portion of the review.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful and constructive advice on this important topic. If you have any questions, please contact Erika Sasser at (919) 541-3889 or sasser.erika@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


Andrew R. Wheeler



January 27, 2020

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Release of the Final *Policy Assessment for the Review of 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

Attached is the final *Policy Assessment for the Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter* (PA). This final PA has been prepared by staff in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) as part of the ongoing review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Particulate Matter (PM). A draft of the PA was released in September 2019. It was reviewed by the chartered Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and discussed by the CASAC at a public meeting on October 24-25, 2019. The CASAC held a follow-up meeting on December 3, 2019 and provided its advice to the EPA Administrator in a letter dated December 16, 2019.

The final PA reflects consideration of the CASAC comments on the draft PA, as well as comments from the public. In addition to a number of clarifying edits throughout the document, some of the more significant changes made in the final PA are summarized below.

1. We have added text to Chapter 1 to clarify the process followed for this review of the PM NAAQS, including how the process has evolved since the initiation of the review.
2. We have added text and figures to Chapter 2 on emissions of PM and PM precursors, and we have added a section discussing uncertainty in emissions estimates. We have also added new discussion of measurement uncertainty for FRM, FEM, CSN, and IMPROVE monitors.
3. In Chapter 3 and Appendices B and C, we have made a number of changes:

- a. We have reduced the emphasis on evidence for long-term ultrafine particle exposures and nervous system effects to reflect the change in the final ISA's causality determination from "likely to be causal" to "suggestive of, but not sufficient to infer, a causal relationship."
 - b. We have expanded the characterization and discussion of the evidence related to exposure measurement error in epidemiologic studies, the potential confounders examined by key studies, the shapes of concentration-response functions, and the results of causal inference and quasi-experimental studies.
 - c. We have expanded and clarified the discussion of uncertainties in the risk assessment, and we have added additional air quality model performance evaluation for each of the urban study areas included in the risk assessment.
 - d. We have provided additional detail on the procedure for deriving concentration-response functions used in the risk assessment.
4. Throughout the document (Chapters 3, 4 and 5), we have added summaries of the CASAC advice on the PM standards and expanded the discussion of data gaps and areas for future research.

The final PA is being made available to the CASAC in the form of the attached electronic file, which I request that you forward to committee members. This document is also available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/particulate-matter-pm-standards-policy-assessments-current-review-0>.

Please accept my gratitude for the advice the CASAC has provided throughout our review of the PM NAAQS. Should you have any questions regarding the final PA, please contact me or Scott Jenkins on my staff (919-541-1167; jenkins.scott@epa.gov).

Attachment

cc: Karen Wesson, OAQPS/HEID
Robert Wayland, OAQPS/HEID
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