



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

FEB 11 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Jonathan M. Samet
Chair
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
Science Advisory Board (1400F)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Peer Review of the U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency's *Integrated Science Assessment for Oxides of
Nitrogen (NOx) and Sulfur Oxides (SOx) – Ecological Criteria (Second External
Review Draft)*

Dear Dr. Samet:

Thank you for your letter of November 18, 2008, which conveyed peer review comments from the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur Oxides Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards Review Panel's meeting on October 1 and 2, 2008, to review the draft Integrated Scientific Assessment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency greatly appreciates the CASAC Panel's time and careful review of the complex science issues included in the Agency's draft ISA.

The advice and discussion of issues contained in the Panel's report were very helpful to the Agency scientists who carefully considered this information as they revised the draft ISA. As you note, this was the first effort to consider developing standards that might integrate across both NOx and SOx, and your comments helped us to refine and sharpen our approach to assessing multiple criteria pollutants. I assure you that as the draft document was revised, the Agency gave full consideration to the CASAC Panel's comments and recommendations and to the public comments received by the Agency.

My staff carefully considered the comments and recommendations in your letter, as well as extensive individual comments from the CASAC Panel members. More specifically, in consideration of CASAC's advice on the executive summary, EPA staff revised general statements to more clearly qualify the extent and magnitude of ecological effects, when possible, and provided further explanation of both the emission sources and atmospheric transport and transformation processes that lead to deposition. In response to CASAC's comments regarding ecological effects, EPA's revisions to the draft ISA included further discussion of the evidence

of ongoing soil acidification, comparison of watershed models, and nitrogen deposition effects on biogenic emissions of nitric oxide and volatile organic compounds.

Again, my thanks to you and the CASAC Panel for your review of the draft ISA. The review of two pollutants in one assessment under the tight time constraints of a court-ordered schedule was challenging for both EPA and the Panel. I very much appreciate your contribution to this effort. The CASAC Panel's work has helped ensure that the best science is used to inform the regulatory process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa P. Jackson', with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

Lisa P. Jackson

cc: Dr. Armistead (Ted) Russell
CASAC Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur Oxides Secondary NAAQS Review Panel