



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

AUG - 4 2005

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Rogene Henderson
Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1025 F Street, N.W., Suite 3700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Dr. Henderson:

Thank you for providing me with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's subcommittee advisory on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Final Draft National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (EPA-SAB-CASAC-05-006, May 2005).

EPA's program staff is already working to accommodate the advice from this advisory to improve implementation of the National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy. There are several recommendations from your letter that we are in the process of implementing, including dedicating a portion of the PM and air toxics monitoring resources toward data analysis to strengthen design and use of the monitoring networks data; emphasizing real-time continuous measurements through implementation of a national network of PM_{2.5} monitors as part of the AIRNow program and developing new performance based criteria for approval of PM_{2.5} continuous methods; developing high sensitivity gas monitors for CO, SO₂, and NO_x; improving access to ambient monitoring data through the web; and harmonizing EPA's existing rural (IMPROVE) and urban (Speciation Trends Network) PM speciation networks. We are carefully considering the full range of the Committee's comments and believe that the advice provided by CASAC will help to ensure that the ambient monitoring networks are responsive to the highest priorities in air quality management.

On behalf of EPA, please extend my appreciation to the members of the CASAC and Ambient Air Monitoring and Methods Subcommittee for their comments and recommendations. We look forward to future dialogue with the CASAC and its AAMM Subcommittee as we continue to optimize our nation's ambient air monitoring infrastructure to meet critical current and future needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Johnson".

Stephen L. Johnson

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>