

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Science Advisory Board (SAB)  
Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Committee (STAA)**

**Minutes of the Closed Teleconference on November 7, 2014**

Date and Time: Friday, November 7, 2014, 1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. ET

Location: Teleconference only.

Purpose: The purpose of the November 7, 2014 closed teleconference was for the SAB Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Committee to review scientific publications nominated by EPA managers and make recommendations to the Administrator for STAA awards for the Agency's 2013 and 2014 STAA program, and to discuss possible improvements to the STAA process and program.

Participants:

STAA Committee (See Roster, Attachment A):

Dr. George Daston, Chair  
Dr. Gregory Biddinger  
Dr. Jerry Campbell  
\*Dr. Peter Chapman  
Dr. Judith Chow  
Dr. James R. Clark  
\*Dr. John Giesy  
\*Dr. Philip K. Hopke  
Dr. Arpad Horvath  
Dr. Wayne Landis  
Dr. Timothy Larson  
Dr. Cindy M. Lee  
Dr. Michael I. Luster  
Dr. James Mihelcic  
Dr. Fred J. Miller  
Dr. Eileen Murphy  
Dr. Kenneth Portier  
Dr. Jay Turner  
\*Dr. Thomas Young  
\*Dr. Yousheng Zeng

\*Did not participate

EPA SAB Staff:

Mr. Edward Hanlon, Designated Federal Officer

## **Background**

On January 13, 2014, SAB signed its report with recommendations to the EPA Administrator for 2013 STAA awards. That SAB report noted that 103 nominations were reviewed, and recommended no nominations for Level I, 8 nominations for Level II; 27 nominations for Level III, 38 nominations for Honorable Mention, and 28 nominations not recommended for award. For the 2014 EPA STAA Program, SAB's STAA Committee met on July 28, 2014 to review and consider 71 nominations for 2014 STAA awards.

In September 2014, EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) submitted 15 additional nominations to the SAB for review and consideration for 2013 STAA awards, and one additional nomination for review and consideration for 2014 STAA award. The SAB STAA Committee held a closed teleconference on November 7, 2014 to discuss and develop recommendations to the EPA Administrator regarding these additional 2013 and 2014 STAA nominations.

In advance of the teleconference, each nomination was assigned to two Committee members for review, and Committee members reviewed the nominations and reported their initial recommendations to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), who entered this information into a master table.

## **November 7, 2014 Teleconference Summary**

The closed teleconference was announced in the Federal Register<sup>1</sup>. A summary of the teleconference follows.

### **Opening Statements and Welcome**

Mr. Ed Hanlon, the DFO, opened the teleconference and made a brief opening statement noting that the STAA Committee of the SAB operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). He noted the teleconference was closed to the public because it was concerned with selecting which employees are deserving of awards, a personnel matter with privacy concerns, which is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to section (c)(6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act. He noted that the SAB Staff Office had assessed whether there were any conflict-of-interest or appearance of a lack of impartiality issues for any of the STAA committee members for this review and whether they were co-authors or contributors for any of the nominated papers. He noted that the SAB Staff Office instructed one member to recuse from the review of one 2013 STAA nomination package upon review of the submitted ethics information. Mr. Hanlon also noted that minutes were being taken to summarize discussions and action items in accordance with requirements under FACA. Mr. Hanlon then turned the teleconference over to the Chair, Dr. George Daston.

Dr. Daston welcomed everyone and noted that this was an Advisory effort where reports seeking consensus would be prepared by the committee, reviewed by the chartered SAB, and sent to the EPA Administrator. He reviewed the charge to the Committee, which included identification of SAB recommendations for Level I, II, and III STAA awards, and recommendation for Honorable Mention.

During the teleconference, the Committee discussed each nomination. Each nomination was assigned to two Committee members for review, and the principal reviewers started the discussion on each nomination followed by full Committee deliberation.

After the Committee agreed on a preliminary final ranking for each nomination, Dr. Daston asked if all members were satisfied with the deliberations and preliminary rankings on each nomination or wanted to further discuss any nomination. The Committee then agreed upon the final recommendations for awards. The Committee then discussed and identified administrative improvements to certain aspects of the STAA nomination process that would be documented in the final 2014 SAB STAA Report to the EPA Administrator.

Dr. Daston thanked the STAA Committee members for their efforts. With the teleconference business concluded, the DFO Ed Hanlon adjourned the teleconference at 3:30 pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted:

*/signed/*

Mr. Edward Hanlon  
Designated Federal Officer

Certified as Accurate:

*/signed/*

Dr. George Daston, Chair  
SAB Scientific and Technological  
Achievement Award Committee

**NOTE AND DISCLAIMER:** The minutes of this closed teleconference reflect diverse ideas and suggestions offered by Committee members during the course of deliberations within the teleconference. Such ideas, suggestions and deliberations do not necessarily reflect consensus advice from the Committee members. The reader is cautioned to not rely on the minutes to represent final, approved, consensus advice and recommendations offered to the Agency. Such advice and recommendations may be found in the final advisories, commentaries, letters or reports prepared and transmitted to the EPA Administrator following the teleconference.

### **Attachments**

A. 2014 SAB STAA Committee Roster

### **Materials Cited**

The following teleconference materials are available on the SAB website:

<http://www.epa.gov/sab>, at the November 7, 2014 teleconference website:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/a84bfee16cc358ad85256ccd006b0b4b/16532e84aff37b385257d5c0068b488!OpenDocument&Date=2014-11-07>

<sup>1</sup> Federal Register Notice announcing the teleconference.

## **ATTACHMENT A – ROSTER**

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board SAB 2014 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Committee (STAA)**

#### **CHAIR**

**Dr. George Daston**, Victor Mills Society Research Fellow, Proctor & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH

#### **MEMBERS**

**Dr. Gregory Biddinger**, Managing Director, Natural Land Management, Inc., Houston, TX

**Dr. Jerry Campbell**, Scientist and Associate Director of the Center for Human Health Assessment, Institute for Chemical Safety Sciences, The Hamner Institutes for Health Science, Research Triangle Park, NC

**\*Dr. Peter M. Chapman**, Principal and Senior Environmental Scientist, Golder Associates Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

**Dr. Judith Chow**, Nazir and Mary Ansari Chair in Science and Entrepreneurialism, and Research Professor, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada

**Dr. James R. Clark**, Independent Consultant, Edmonds, WA

**\*Dr. John Giesy**, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Environmental Toxicology, Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences and Toxicology Centre, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, Canada

**\*Dr. Philip K. Hopke**, Bayard D. Clarkson Distinguished Professor, Director of the Center for Air Resources Engineering and Science, and Director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

**Dr. Arpad Horvath**, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

**Dr. Wayne Landis**, Professor and Director, Institute of Environmental Toxicology, Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

**Dr. Timothy Larson**, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**Dr. Cindy M. Lee**, Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences, Clemson University, Anderson, SC

**Dr. Michael I. Luster**, Professor, School of Public Health, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

**Dr. James Mihelcic**, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

**Dr. Fred J. Miller**, Independent Consultant, Fred J. Miller and Associates LLC, Cary, NC

**Dr. Eileen Murphy**, Director of Research Development, Office of the Vice President for Research, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

**Dr. Kenneth Portier**, Managing Director, Statistics and Evaluation Center, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA

**Dr. Jay Turner**, Associate Professor, Department of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

**\*Dr. Thomas Young**, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

**\*Dr. Yousheng Zeng**, Managing Partner, Providence Engineering & Environmental Group LLC, Baton Rouge, LA

#### **SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD STAFF**

**Mr. Edward Hanlon**, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Science Advisory Board Staff, Washington, DC

\*Did not participate in this review.