

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 19, 2013

SUBJECT: Schedule for CASAC Review of the 2nd External Review Drafts of EPA's Health and Welfare Risk and Exposure Assessments and Policy Assessment for the Review of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

FROM: Lydia N. Wegman, Director
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Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

TO: Holly Stallworth
Designated Federal Officer
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)
EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office

As you are aware, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently in the process of reviewing the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ozone (O₃) set in 2008. In light of additional analyses we are conducting, as discussed below, I am requesting that the next meeting of the CASAC Ozone Review Panel be scheduled in March 2014 to allow sufficient time for us to prepare second drafts of the Health and Welfare Risk and Exposure Assessments (REAs) and the Policy Assessment (PA) for CASAC and public review.

Consistent with the Integrated Review Plan for this O₃ NAAQS review, we are continuing to develop the second drafts of the REAs which will include assessments of exposures and risks remaining after simulating just meeting existing and potential alternative primary and secondary O₃ standards. The Health REA will include the application of a new modeling approach for simulating just meeting existing and potential alternative primary standards; the use of a new threshold model to estimate lung function decrement; and additional sensitivity analyses related to the epidemiological-based risk assessments. The Welfare REA will include the application of a new national-scale model-based approach to simulate meeting potential alternative secondary standards and a number of new models for simulating the effects of ozone on vegetation, including county-level forest and crop impacts and the impact on urban forests. CASAC supported the use of these new modeling applications, as well as the additional sensitivity analyses. These expanded second drafts will take into account the extensive comments we received from CASAC, as well as comments received from the public. Given the complexity of the exposure and risk assessments, additional time is needed to complete these analyses, summarize and synthesize the results of this work, and incorporate and consider these results in the development of policy options for the PA.

Based on our evaluation of the time required to complete the REA analyses and incorporate those results into the PA, we expect to release for CASAC and public review the second draft REAs and PA in early December 2013. We request that the next CASAC O₃ Review Panel meeting be scheduled for early March 2014 to allow three months for CASAC and public review.

Please contact me (919-541-5505; email wegman.lydia@epa.gov) or Dr. Bryan Hubbell (919-541-0621; email hubbell.bryan@epa.gov) with any questions about the REAs, and me or Ms. Susan Stone (919-541-1146; email stone.susan@epa.gov) with any questions about the PA.