



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

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

July 30, 1991

The Honorable William Reilly
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

EPA-SAB-CON-91-004

Dear Mr. Reilly:

The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) has completed a consultation on "Biological Criteria for Water Quality" with the Office of Science and Technology (OST) in the Office of Water. The SAB has developed consultation as mechanism to advise the Agency on the technical issues that should be considered in the development of regulations, guidelines, or technical guidance before the Agency has taken a position. A consultation is conducted under the normal FACA requirements, which include advance notice of the public meeting in the Federal Register.

The Committee met with the staff of OST on June 13, 1991 to discuss technical questions related to sampling and reference sites that could be addressed in technical guidance on biological criteria. The OST staff and the Committee interacted in a collegial manner, not a judgmental one. In keeping with the SAB concept of a consultation, there was no attempt to develop a consensus of opinion with EPA or within the Committee. However, the Committee believes that the consultation achieved its goal by discussing several views and priorities that EPA could consider in developing its technical guidance and program goals. All of the Committee's thoughts were provided directly to OST at the meeting. There will be no formal report from the SAB as result of this consultation nor do we expect any formal response from the Agency.

We look forward to advising the Agency in the future by consultations as well as through more formal scientific reviews.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Loehr, Chairman
Executive Committee
Science Advisory Board

Dr. Kenneth Dickson, Chairman
Ecological Processes
Effect Committee



