

May 22, 1998

EPA-SAB-CASAC-LTR-98-002

Honorable Carol M. Browner
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: CASAC Review of Project Work Plan for the Particulate
Matter Criteria Document

Dear Ms. Browner:

The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) met on May 5, 1998 to review the *Project Work Plan For Preparation of Revised U.S. EPA Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (2000)*, developed by the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in Research Triangle Park, NC. This work plan describes the general approach and schedule NCEA proposes to follow in developing the criteria document for the next review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

NCEA staff presented a well-developed and clearly-stated plan which included steps and milestones appropriate for meeting the mandated deadline for completion of the next PM review. The Committee agreed with the general organization of the document into the nine chapters specified in the plan, and engaged with staff in a productive discussion of subtopics within the chapters. The discussion ended with an agreement on the general structure and scope of the chapters.

The Committee was pleased with NCEA staff's proposal for taking a new approach in their development of the next PM criteria document. Stated in general terms, this approach will produce a document which builds on previous knowledge, but avoids recapitulating in a comprehensive manner the information contained in previous criteria documents. The Committee was unanimous in its view that this is a much-needed shift in the Agency's approach to criteria documents, and looks forward to working with NCEA staff to completing the document in a timely manner.

We look forward to the opportunity to evaluate the external review draft of the PM criteria document in the fall of 1999, as the current schedule dictates.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe L. Mauderly, Chair
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee

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