

November 28, 1995

EPA-SAB-CASAC-LTR-96-001

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

RE: CASAC Closure on the Air Quality Criteria for Ozone and Related
Photochemical Oxidants

Dear Ms. Browner:

A Panel of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) of EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on July 20 and 21, 1994 and March 21 and 22, 1995, to review drafts of the document entitled Air Quality Criteria for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants. At these meetings and in subsequent written comments, the Committee made extensive recommendations for strengthening the document. In August 1995, revisions to the Criteria Document were mailed to the CASAC members for review. On September 19, 1995, the Panel met to complete this review. The resulting comments by the Committee members note with satisfaction the improvements made in the scientific quality and completeness of the Criteria Document. The changes are consistent with CASAC's recommendations.

At the September 1995 meeting the Panel came to closure on the Criteria Document. It was the consensus of the Panel members that the Criteria Document provides an adequate review of the available scientific data and relevant studies of ozone and related photochemical oxidants. The document is quite comprehensive and will provide an adequate scientific basis for regulatory decisions on ozone and related photochemical oxidants based on available information. At the meeting and subsequently in writing, Panel members provided the Agency with additional comments for consideration. Most of these comments were directed at Chapter 5, the ecological effects chapter. Although the Panel would like to have these comments considered for incorporation in the Criteria Document, the Panel did not feel that it was necessary to review another revised version.

On behalf of the Panel, I would like to thank EPA staff for their efforts in preparing the Criteria Document on the accelerated schedule. Our comments on the OAQPS Staff Paper will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

Dr. George T. Wolff, Chair
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee