

December 13, 1999

EPA-SAB-EC-CON-99-003

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

Subject: Notification of a Consultation on the Study of the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)

Dear Ms. Browner:

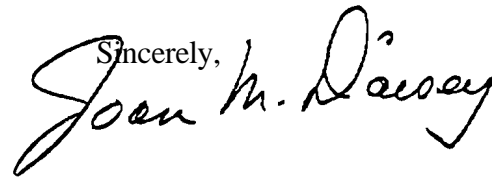
The Executive Committee (EC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on November 29, 1999 with staff from the Office of the Research and Development to conduct a Consultation on the study of the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) that was described in a report from the Senate Appropriations Committee:

"The Committee is concerned about the accuracy of information contained in the Integrated Risk Information system [IRIS] data base which contains health effects information on more than 500 chemicals. The Committee directs the Agency to consult with the Science Advisory Board (SAB) on the design of a study that will a) examine a representative sample of IRIS health assessments completed before the IRIS Pilot Project, as well as a representative sample of assessments completed under the project and b) assess the extent to which these assessments document the range of uncertainty and variability of the data. The results of that study will be reviewed by the SAB and a copy of the study and the SAB's report on the study sent to the Congress within one year of enactment of this Act."

As the first step in this process, the Agency came to the EC for a Consultation on their plan to conduct the IRIS study. The results of the study will be reviewed by a Subcommittee of the EC at a later date.

The SAB has developed the Consultation as a mechanism to advise the Agency on 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 requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which include advance notice of the public meeting in the Federal Register.

As is our customary practice, there will be no formal report from the SAB as a result of this Consultation, nor do we expect any formal response from the Agency. However, the Board looks forward to conducting a formal review of the results of study when they become available.

Sincerely,


Dr. Joan M. Daisey, Chair
Science Advisory Board

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