



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

EPA-SAB-LTR-90-007

September 18, 1990

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Re: CASAC Visibility Research
Subcommittee

Dear Mr. Reilly:

In 1987, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) formed a Visibility Research Subcommittee to evaluate the ongoing visibility research activities being conducted by EPA and other Federal Agencies. The Subcommittee met in November 1987 and concluded that the Federal research program lacked adequate coordination, i.e., individual projects sponsored by a variety of agencies lacked overall direction and focus.

The Subcommittee, concerned over this lack of coordination, asked EPA to draft a plan for a focused, coordinated Federal research program that would allow EPA oversight. However, due to subsequent reduced EPA funding of visibility research, this program was never completed. Consequently, the Subcommittee has not met again.

Recently, the Senate and House versions of the new Clean Air Act both contain a renewed emphasis on visibility. The Senate bill provides EPA with \$8,000,000/year for five years to identify the sources of regional haze. The Administrator is required to provide interim findings within 3 years. Within 24 months of enactment, the bill requires the Administrator to assess improvements in visibility that are likely to result from the implementation of the Act, and every five years, the Administrator must conduct an assessment of the progress. The House plan requires EPA to issue regulations to control regional haze within two years.

In view of the renewed interest and impending increase in funding for visibility work, we recommend that EPA initiate planning now, for the development of an interagency research plan which would optimize the likelihood of appropriate research being

conducted to respond to these visibility initiatives. The CASAC would be pleased to assist in this activity and, in particular, would welcome the opportunity to review and comment on the Agency's plans on visibility research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger O. McClellan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Roger O. McClellan, D.V.M.
Chairman
Clean Air Scientific Advisory
Committee

August 1990

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