

Commission and are available for public inspection.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-34779 Filed 12-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00575; FRL-6054-8]

### Pesticides; Science Policy Issues Related to the Food Quality Protection Act

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** To assure that EPA's science policies related to implementing the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) are transparent and open to public participation, EPA is soliciting comments on four draft science policy papers—"A User's Guide to Available OPP Information on Assessing Dietary (Food) Exposure to Pesticides," "Dietary (Drinking Water) Exposure Estimates," "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Residential Exposure Assessment" and "Framework for Assessing Non-Occupational, Non-Dietary (Residential) Exposure to Pesticides." In addition, EPA is announcing the availability of the National Pesticide Residue Data Base which is being posted on the internet for access to the public, and the availability of Use and Usage Matrices for Organophosphates. This notice is the fourth in a series concerning science policy documents related to FQPA and developed through the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC).

**DATES:** Written comments for each science policy paper, identified by the separate docket control numbers provided in Unit I. of this document, should be submitted by March 5, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit I. of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For "A User's Guide to Available OPP Information on Assessing Dietary (Food) Exposure to Pesticides" and "National Pesticide Residue Data Base" contact by mail: Kathleen Martin, Environmental Protection Agency (7509C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-2857; fax: 703-305-5147; e-mail: martin.kathleen@epa.gov.

For "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Residential Exposure Assessment" and "Framework for Assessing Non-Occupational, Non-Dietary (Residential) Exposure to Pesticides" contact by mail: William Wooge, Environmental Protection Agency (7509C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-8794; fax: 703-305-5147; e-mail: wooge.william@epa.gov.

For "Dietary (Drinking Water) Exposure Estimates" contact by mail: Denise Keehner, Environmental Protection Agency (7507C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 305-7695; fax: 703-305-6309; e-mail: keehner.denise@epa.gov.

For "Use and Usage Matrices for Organophosphates" contact by mail: Kathy Davis, Environmental Protection Agency (7503C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-7002; fax: 703-308-8091; e-mail: davis.kathy@epa.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. General Information

##### A. How Can I Get Additional Information or Copies of This Document or Other Documents?

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, the four science policy papers and "National Pesticide Residue Data Base" from the EPA Home Page under the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>. On the Office of Pesticide Program Home Page select "TRAC" and then look up the entry for this document. You can also go directly to the listings at the EPA Home page at the **Federal Register** — Environmental Documents entry for this document under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>) to obtain this notice and the five science policy papers. The Use and Usage Matrices for Organophosphates will be available at this site in January, 1999.

2. *Fax on Demand.* You may request to receive a faxed copy of this document, as well as supporting information, by using a faxphone to call (202) 401-0527 and selecting item 6027 for "A User's Guide to Available OPP Information on Assessing Dietary (Food) Exposure to Pesticides," item 6028 for "Dietary (Drinking Water) Exposure Estimates," item 6029 for "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Residential Exposure Assessment," and item 6030 for "Framework for Assessing Non-Occupational Non-Dietary (Residential) Exposure to Pesticides." You may also follow the automated menu.

3. *In person or by phone.* If you have any questions or need additional information about this action, you may contact the appropriate technical person identified in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section of this document. In addition, the official records for the science policy papers listed in the SUMMARY section of this document, including the public versions, have been established under the docket control numbers listed in Unit I.B. of this document (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). Public versions of these records, including printed, paper versions of any electronic comments, which do not include any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI), are available for inspection in Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The Public Information and Records Integrity Branch telephone number is 703-305-5805.

##### B. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically. Be sure to identify the appropriate docket control number in your correspondence. The docket control number for "A User's Guide to Available OPP Information on Assessing Dietary (Food) Exposure to Pesticides" is OPP-00576, for "Dietary (Drinking Water) Exposure Estimates," is OPP-00577, for "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Residential Exposure Assessment" is OPP-00578, and for "Framework for Assessing Non-Occupational, Non-Dietary (Residential) Exposure to Pesticides" is OPP-00579.

1. *By mail.* Submit written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier.* Deliver written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

3. *Electronically.* Submit your comments and/or data electronically by e-mail to: [opp-docket@epa.gov](mailto:opp-docket@epa.gov). Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. Submit electronic comments as an ASCII file,

avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on standard computer disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number. Electronic comments on this notice may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

*C. How Should I Handle CBI Information That I Want to Submit to the Agency?*

You may claim information that you submit in response to this document as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please call the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch telephone number is 703-305-5805.

*D. What Should I Consider As I Prepare My Comments for EPA?*

EPA invites you to provide your views on the various draft science policy papers, new approaches we have not considered, the potential impacts of the various options (including possible unintended consequences), and any data or information that you would like the Agency to consider. You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide solid technical information and/or data to support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate.
5. Indicate what you support, as well as what you disagree with.
6. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this notice.
8. At the beginning of your comments (e.g., as part of the "Subject" heading), be sure to properly identify the document you are commenting on. You can do this by providing the docket control number assigned to the notice, along with the name, date and **Federal Register** citation.

## II. Background

On August 3, 1996, the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) was signed into law. Effective upon signature, the FQPA significantly amended the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Among other changes, FQPA established a stringent health-based standard ("a reasonable certainty of no harm") for pesticide residues in foods to assure protection from unacceptable pesticide exposure; provided heightened health protections for infants and children from pesticide risks; required expedited review of new, safer pesticides; created incentives for the development and maintenance of effective crop protection tools for farmers; required reassessment of existing tolerances over a 10-year period; and required periodic re-evaluation of pesticide registrations and tolerances to ensure that scientific data supporting pesticide registrations will remain up-to-date in the future.

Subsequently, the Agency established the Food Safety Advisory Committee (FSAC) as a subcommittee of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) to assist in soliciting input from stakeholders and to provide input to EPA on some of the broad policy choices facing the Agency and on strategic direction for the Office of Pesticide Programs. The Agency has used the interim approaches developed through discussions with FSAC to make regulatory decisions that met FQPA's standard but that could be revisited if additional information became available or as the science evolved. As EPA's approach to implementing the scientific provisions of FQPA has evolved, the Agency has sought independent review and public participation, often through presentation of many of the science policy issues to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), a group of independent, outside experts who provide peer review and scientific advice to OPP.

In addition, as directed by Vice President Albert Gore, EPA has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and another subcommittee of NACEPT, the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), chaired by the EPA Deputy Administrator and the USDA Deputy Secretary, to address FQPA issues and implementation. TRAC comprises more than 50 representatives of affected user, producer, consumer, public health, environmental, states and other interested groups. The TRAC has

met five times as a full committee from May 27 through September 16, 1998.

The Agency has been working with the TRAC to ensure that its science policies, risk assessments of individual pesticides, and process for decision making are transparent and open to public participation. An important product of these consultations with TRAC is the development of a framework for addressing key science policy issues. The Agency decided that the FQPA implementation process would benefit from initiating notice and comment on the major science policy issues.

The TRAC identified nine science policy issue areas they believe were key to implementation of FQPA and tolerance reassessment. The framework calls for EPA to provide one or more documents for comment on each of the nine issues by announcing their availability in the **Federal Register**. In addition to comments received in response to these **Federal Register** notices, EPA will consider comments received during the TRAC meetings. Each of these issues is evolving and in a different stage of refinement. Accordingly, as the issues are further refined by EPA in consultation with USDA and others, they may also be presented to the SAP.

In accordance with the framework described in a separate notice published in the **Federal Register** of October 29, 1998 (63 FR 58038) (FRL-6041-5), EPA is issuing a series of draft documents concerning nine science policy issues identified by the TRAC related to the implementation of FQPA. This notice announces the availability of four draft documents as identified in Unit I.B. of this document, as described in the framework notice published in the **Federal Register** of October 29, 1998 (63 FR 58038). EPA also stated in its October 29, 1998 **Federal Register** notice that it would issue a draft document titled "Monte-Carlo Techniques and the 99.9th Percentile" for comment in December 1998. Due to the complexity of this issue and the need to coordinate with the USDA, EPA will issue this document separately.

## III. Summary of Draft Papers and Information

### A. "A User's Guide to Available OPP Information on Assessing Dietary (Food) Exposure to Pesticides"

Assessing the amount of pesticide residues in and on the foods Americans consume is a complex process. Over the years the Agency has written a number of guidelines and policy statements related to the conduct and review of

residue studies. "A User's Guide to Available OPP Information on Assessing Dietary (Food) Exposure" describes in "plain English" how EPA conducts acute and chronic pesticide dietary (food) exposure assessments and, more importantly, where in EPA guidance and policy documents one can find methods for doing such assessments.

*B. "Dietary (Drinking Water) Exposure Estimates"*

The EPA Office of Pesticide Programs is proposing to build on its existing policy for estimating pesticide concentrations in drinking water as part of its assessment of dietary exposures to pesticides. The most significant changes being proposed are those that refine existing screening methods for identifying pesticides which may be present in drinking water at levels of concern. These refinements will enable OPP to more accurately estimate the potential risks of pesticides from drinking water exposure to the public and sensitive populations such as infants and children.

For some time the Agency has been using screening models to estimate pesticide concentrations in groundwater and surface water to rule out those food-use pesticides that are not expected to contribute enough exposure via drinking water to result in unacceptable levels of risk. The Agency uses monitoring data, where available and reliable, to refine its assessments in those cases where the use of the screening models does not result in "clearing" (i.e., indicate a low risk) the pesticide from a drinking water perspective. Specifically, OPP proposes to:

1. Replace the "farm field pond" scenario in its surface water screening models with a "drinking water reservoir" scenario.
2. Incorporate into the model a factor to account for the area surrounding the reservoir that is cropped.
3. Develop a second-level (tier 2) screening model for groundwater.
4. Evaluate how OPP uses water monitoring data in its drinking water assessment.
5. Continue efforts to obtain additional monitoring of pesticides in drinking water.

The proposed changes are intended to improve EPA's initial screening models by making them capable of producing more accurate estimates of pesticide concentrations in drinking water. In addition, EPA is seeking comment on current approaches to the use of monitoring data in its assessment of drinking water exposure. The Agency particularly seeks comments on the

quantity and quality of data that would be appropriate for conducting drinking water assessments for purposes of tolerance decision-making. Finally, the Agency is soliciting comment on the current approach of back-calculating Drinking Water Levels of Comparison (DWLOC) only after all other exposures from food and residential use are considered.

*C. "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Residential Exposure Assessment"*

As required by the FQPA, EPA must now include residential and other non-occupational exposures in the aggregate exposure assessments for pesticides. Generally speaking, residential exposure monitoring data have not been routinely required. Thus, EPA has been relying on existing monitoring, survey and modeling data, including information on activity patterns, particularly for children, to estimate residential exposure to pesticides. Because highly specific, residential exposure data are generally lacking and there is not wide understanding and acceptance of existing models and assumptions, several workgroups and task forces are working to generate data and improve methods for conducting residential exposure assessments. One of these such efforts is the work group for developing Residential Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Residential Exposure Assessments.

The Residential Exposure Assessment Standard Operating Procedures are being developed by the Office of Pesticide Programs as standard methods for conducting residential exposure assessments for both handler and post-application exposures when pesticide-specific and/or site-specific field data are limited or not available. Handler and post-application SOPs were drafted for assessments of dermal, inhalation and/or potential ingestion exposures for the following major residential exposure scenarios: residential lawns, garden plants, trees (e.g., fruit, ornamental), swimming pools, painting and wood preservative treatments, fogging, crack and crevice, and broadcast treatments, pet treatments, detergent/hand soap, impregnated materials, termiticides, inhalation of residues from indoor treatments, and rodenticides.

Each SOP includes: A description of the exposure scenario, the recommended methods (i.e., algorithms and default parameters) for quantifying potential pesticide doses, example calculations, limitations and uncertainties associated with the use of the SOPs and applicable references. The estimated doses resulting from using

these SOPs are appropriate for use in developing estimates of human risks associated with residential exposures to pesticides. Potential dermal and inhalation doses determined by these SOPs do not, in general, include an adjustment for the amount of chemical likely to pass through the skin or lungs and be absorbed into the human system. Assessors will need to apply chemical-specific dermal and inhalation absorption rates, if available, to determine absorbed doses.

The SOPs were jointly developed (and are now being revised) with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada and the California State EPA—Department of Pesticide Regulations. Other USEPA offices providing support include the National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)/ORD; the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA)/ORD; and the Economics, Exposure, and Technology Division (EETD)/OPPT.

The first draft of the SOPs was presented to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) on September 9, 1997, for their consideration and comment. In the summer of 1998, as the Agency was preparing the Framework for Addressing Key Science Issues, EPA believed that for the SOPs it would be reasonable to incorporate all the SAP's comments by December 1998 and in fact, this is the timeframe that was provided in the Framework **Federal Register** notice (63 FR 58038). Early this Fall, the Residential SOP Workgroup met to discuss the best approach for implementing the SAP's comments and in a separate endeavor, the Agency decided that the SOPs should go back to the SAP in July 1999. So, EPA's original schedule for producing the final SOPs has been slightly altered. Instead of issuing final SOPs in May 1999, as originally planned, a significantly revised and updated version will be released in June 1999 in preparation for the July 1999 SAP meeting.

Today, the Agency is releasing a revised version (December 19, 1997) of the SOPs for comment along with a short paper describing how the Agency is incorporating the SAP's September 1997 comments ("The Agency's Response to Comment on the Draft Residential Standard Operating Procedures"). More importantly, EPA is taking this opportunity to seek additional data and information on residential exposure for the next revision. Because chemical-specific residential exposure data are generally lacking, there are several workgroups and task forces working to generate data and improved methods, which could significantly impact refinements to the

SOPs. It is the Agency's belief that new information will be forthcoming in the next few months from registrant groups and industry task forces, such as the Indoor Residential Exposure Joint Venture (IREJV) and the Outdoor Residential Exposure Task Force (ORETF), as well as from university and EPA researchers to more properly address the SAP comments and refine the SOPs for the June 1999 release.

*D. "Framework for Assessing Non-Occupational, Non-Dietary (Residential) Exposure to Pesticides"*

Non-occupational, non-dietary exposure assessment is an important component in establishing an individual's overall risk from pesticides. This type of assessment focuses primarily on those exposures that occur in and around the home (otherwise known as residential exposure assessment). It is important to note that exposures that occur as a result of pesticide applications in schools, parks and day care centers are included under the term "residential" Residential exposures are "non-dietary" in nature (i.e., through the skin or inhaled).

The importance of non-dietary residential exposure assessment has only increased with the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 and the statute's increased emphasis on the protection of children. EPA is currently refining its assessments in order to improve overall quality and achieve more realistic exposure estimates. This paper discusses:

1. Exposure basics.
2. How EPA currently conducts non-dietary residential exposure assessment.
3. The generally conservative nature of the Agency's non-dietary residential exposure assessment.
4. How EPA is refining non-dietary residential exposure assessments.

*E. "National Pesticide Residue Data Base"*

EPA stated in its October 29, 1998 **Federal Register** notice that it would complete the National Pesticide Residue Database (NPRD), a comprehensive database that will contain information about actual pesticide residues in raw and processed foods. A complete version of the NPRD is expected to be available on EPA's web page in January 1999. Provided on EPA's web site is a description on the history, development and use of NPRD (<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/nprd/>).

*F. "Use and Usage Matrices for Organophosphates"*

To assist in the calculation of cumulative and aggregate risks from

organophosphate (OP) pesticides and to evaluate the relative importance of the uses of each OP pesticide, EPA decision-makers need complete information about "real-world" pesticide usage. With the support of the USDA and the grower community, EPA is gathering available information about usage patterns and putting it into crop-by-crop matrices. These matrices present real-world information on pesticide usage and the pests which drive the usage, and are developed with support from the USDA and the States and the grower community is invited to comment.

Matrices are being developed for approximately 75 crops, including details such as percent of crop treated, typical application information, timing of pesticide use, target pests and registered alternatives. All of the matrices will be made available on the Internet. The first 10 draft matrices will be posted on the Internet in January 1999.

**IV. Questions/Issues for Comment**

While comments are invited on any aspect of the first four papers above, EPA is particularly interested in comments on the following questions and issues.

*A. "A User's Guide to Available OPP Information on Assessing Dietary (Food) Exposure to Pesticides"*

1. Is EPA's paper clear and complete?

*B. "Dietary (Drinking Water) Exposure Estimates"*

1. Surface Water Screening Model Refinements:

- i. What factors should EPA consider in determining whether to replace the field pond scenario with an index reservoir in surface water screening models?
- ii. What factors should EPA consider in determining whether to use an index reservoir similar to Shipman City Lake for its surface water screening models?
- iii. How should the crop area factor be applied to surface water screening models when the pesticide may potentially be used on several crops present in the same watershed?
- iv. How should OPP address changes to the crop area from year to year, crop rotations, fallow land, and the spatial distribution of the crop within the watershed?
- v. How should OPP apply the crop area factor to minor-use crops for which data may not be available or may be limited?
- vi. What watershed-scale models are available to provide effective screening

tools for drinking water exposure assessments for pesticides?

**2. Incorporating Water Monitoring Data in the Drinking Water Exposure Assessment:**

- i. Under what circumstances should valid monitoring data replace model predictions in a drinking water assessment when the data may not include potentially vulnerable areas?
- ii. How should non-detects be handled in a drinking water assessment?
- iii. What is a workable definition of "reliable" monitoring data for the purpose of conducting a national drinking water assessment? Describe the quantity and quality of data that would be acceptable for the purpose of conducting regional or national drinking water assessments.
- iv. At what scale (i.e., national, regional or local) should OPP be conducting pesticide assessments in drinking water? What factors are important in determining the scale for assessments?

v. OPP currently calculates DWLOCs only after contributions from food and residential exposures have been considered. Should OPP continue with this approach or, if not, what approach should OPP consider?

vi. How should the impact of water treatment processes be incorporated into the drinking water assessment? What information is available on treatment effects on pesticides in water? Should a "default" treatment (i.e., some minimum standard which is employed by most drinking water facilities in the country) be used? If so, what?

*C. "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Residential Exposure Assessment"*

1. Do EPA's responses to the SAP's comments appear reasonable?
2. Are the SOPs technically correct, complete and based on sound science?

*D. "Framework for Assessing Non-Occupational (Residential) Exposure to Pesticides."*

1. Is EPA's approach to non-dietary exposure assessment clear and complete?

**V. Policies Not Rules**

The draft science policy documents discussed in this notice are intended to provide guidance to EPA personnel and decision-makers, and to the public. As guidance documents and not rules, these policies are not binding on either EPA or any outside parties. Although these guidance documents provide a starting point for EPA risk assessments, EPA will depart from these policies where the facts or circumstances

warrant. In such cases, EPA will explain why a different course was taken. Similarly, outside parties remain free to assert that a given policy is not appropriate for a specific pesticide or that the circumstances surrounding a specific risk assessment demonstrate that a given policy should be abandoned.

EPA has stated in this notice that it will make available revised guidance after consideration of public comment. Public comment is not being solicited for the purpose of converting these policy documents into binding rules. EPA will not be codifying these policies in the Code of Federal Regulations. EPA is soliciting public comment so that it can make fully informed decisions regarding the content of these guidance.

The "revised" guidance will not be unalterable documents. Once a "revised" guidance document is issued, EPA will continue to treat it as guidance, not a rule. Accordingly, on a case-by-case basis EPA will decide whether it is appropriate to depart from the guidance or to modify the overall approach in the guidance. In the course of commenting on the individual guidance documents, EPA would welcome comments that specifically address how the guidance documents can be structured so that they provide meaningful guidance without imposing binding requirements.

## VI. Contents of Docket

Documents that are referenced in this notice will be inserted in the docket under the docket control numbers "OPP-00576," "OPP-00577," "OPP-00578" or "OPP-00579." In addition, the documents referenced in the framework notice, which published in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 1998 (63 FR 58038) have also been inserted in the docket under docket control number OPP-00557.

## List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, pesticides and pests.

Dated: December 23, 1998.

**Lynn R. Goldman,**

*Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6214-6]

### Science Advisory Board; Public Advisory Committee Meetings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that two Committees of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times described below. All times noted are Eastern Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office and are not available from the SAB Office. Public drafts of SAB reports are available to the Agency and the public from the SAB office. Details on availability are noted below.

#### 1. Ecological Risk Subcommittee (ERS) of the SAB's Integrated Risk Project (IRP)—Teleconference

The Ecological Risk Subcommittee (ERS) of the SAB's Integrated Risk Project (IRP) will hold a working meeting via teleconference on Tuesday January 26, 1999, from 1:00–3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the SAB Conference Room (Room 3709), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. A limited number of teleconference lines will be available on a first come, first served basis for interested members of the public. The purpose of the working meeting will be to brief staff from the Agency's Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) on the draft methodology developed by the ERS for ranking ecological risks. The ERS was formed as part of the SAB's Integrated Risk Project, a multi-year SAB effort to update the 1990 report, Reducing Risk. The IRP full report, including the ERS chapter, is expected to be released for peer review this winter. A draft of the report was released April 1, 1998, and this draft will form the basis of the ERS discussion at this teleconference meeting.

**For Further Information:** Copies of the draft ERS chapter are available from Ms. Mary Winston, Science Advisory Board, telephone (202) 260-6557; FAX (202) 260-7118, or E-mail at [winston.mary@epa.gov](mailto:winston.mary@epa.gov). Anyone interested in participating in the meeting should contact Ms. Stephanie Sanzone, Designated Federal Officer

(DFO) for the ERS, no later than 4:00 pm on January 21, 1999 at: USEPA, Science Advisory Board (1400), Washington, DC 20460, (202) 260-6557, FAX (202) 260-7118, or via E-Mail at [sanzone.stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:sanzone.stephanie@epa.gov).

#### 2. Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Executive Committee (EC)

The Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Executive Committee (EC) will meet on Wednesday, January 27, and Thursday, January 28, 1999. The meeting will convene each day at 8:30 am, in the Administrator's Conference Room 1103 West Tower of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building at 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, and adjourn no later than 5:30 pm on each day.

At this meeting, the Executive Committee will receive updates from its committees and subcommittees concerning their recent and planned activities. As part of these updates, some committees will present draft reports for Executive Committee review and approval. Copies of these drafts will be available on the SAB Website (see below for site address) two weeks prior to the meeting or may be obtained from Ms. Tillery-Gadson (see address below).

In addition, the Board anticipates interacting with various senior Agency officials on issues of general interest, as well as issues currently before or proposed for future Board consideration.

**For Further Information:** Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the meeting or who wishes to submit comments should contact Dr. Donald G. Barnes, Designated Federal Officer for the Executive Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400), U.S. EPA, Washington, DC 20460, phone (202)-260-4126; fax (202)-260-9232; or via Email at: [barnes.don@epa.gov](mailto:barnes.don@epa.gov). Copies of the draft meeting agenda and the draft reports will be available on the SAB Website ([www.epa.gov/sab](http://www.epa.gov/sab)) approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. Alternatively, these materials can be obtained from Ms. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson at the above phone and fax numbers or via Email: [tillery.priscilla@epa.gov](mailto:tillery.priscilla@epa.gov).

#### Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For conference call meetings,