



THE ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

November 13, 2023

Kimberly L. Jones, Ph.D.
Chair
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Jones:

I would like to thank the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board and the SAB Cr(VI) Review Panel for their September 27, 2023, letter providing comments on the draft *Toxicological Review of Hexavalent Chromium [Cr(VI)]* developed through the Integrated Risk Information System Program and released for external peer review in October 2022. I am grateful for your independent, peer review. It is a crucial aspect of scientific integrity and helps ensure that the EPA's final health assessment is based on the best available science.

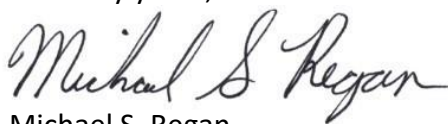
I appreciate the panel's thorough examination of the draft IRIS *Toxicological Review of Hexavalent Chromium [Cr(VI)]*. I am pleased that the expert panel agreed with many of the conclusions presented in the draft IRIS document, including that the "EPA's conclusions relative to non-cancer hazard identification were scientifically supported," and that "Cr(VI) likely causes gastrointestinal cancer," with a large majority of the panel, 12 of 14, agreeing that "the evidence for Cr(VI) causing cancer through a mutagenic mode of action was sufficiently supported in experimental systems and was relevant to humans."

In addition, the recommendations you suggested will enhance the clarity of the EPA's final assessment and strengthen the scientific basis for its conclusions. The EPA will carefully consider the SAB's comments on the draft assessment's approaches, such as selection of the critical study for respiratory hazards and a further consideration of multiple toxicokinetic factors potentially affecting low dose effect extrapolations for the oral route of exposure, while developing the final *IRIS Toxicological Review of Hexavalent Chromium [Cr(VI)]*.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding the process or the next steps, Dr. Kristina Thayer of the IRIS program leadership and Andrew Kraft would be pleased to assist you and are available at thayer.kris@epa.gov and kraft.andrew@epa.gov.

In the meantime, please accept my warmest wishes for continued success.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael S. Regan



THE ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

November 13, 2023

John Morris, Ph.D.
Chair, Cr(VI) Review Panel
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Morris:

I would like to thank the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board and the SAB Cr(VI) Review Panel for their September 27, 2023, letter providing comments on the draft *Toxicological Review of Hexavalent Chromium [Cr(VI)]* developed through the Integrated Risk Information System Program and released for external peer review in October 2022. I am grateful for your independent, peer review. It is a crucial aspect of scientific integrity and helps ensure that the EPA's final health assessment is based on the best available science.

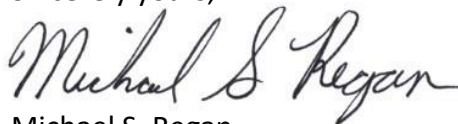
I appreciate the panel's thorough examination of the draft IRIS *Toxicological Review of Hexavalent Chromium [Cr(VI)]*. I am pleased that the expert panel agreed with many of the conclusions presented in the draft IRIS document, including that the "EPA's conclusions relative to non-cancer hazard identification were scientifically supported," and that "Cr(VI) likely causes gastrointestinal cancer," with a large majority of the panel, 12 of 14, agreeing that "the evidence for Cr(VI) causing cancer through a mutagenic mode of action was sufficiently supported in experimental systems and was relevant to humans."

In addition, the recommendations you suggested will enhance the clarity of the EPA's final assessment and strengthen the scientific basis for its conclusions. The EPA will carefully consider the SAB's comments on the draft assessment's approaches, such as selection of the critical study for respiratory hazards and a further consideration of multiple toxicokinetic factors potentially affecting low dose effect extrapolations for the oral route of exposure, while developing the final *IRIS Toxicological Review of Hexavalent Chromium [Cr(VI)]*.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding the process or the next steps, Dr. Kristina Thayer of the IRIS program leadership and Andrew Kraft would be pleased to assist you and are available at thayer.kris@epa.gov and kraft.andrew@epa.gov.

In the meantime, please accept my warmest wishes for continued success.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Michael S. Regan