

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

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## EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

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**1. Committee's Official Designation (Title):**

EPA Science Advisory Board

**2. Authority:**

The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq. The SAB was created on January 1, 1978 pursuant to the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA) (codified at 42 U.S.C. 4365). The SAB's charter has been renewed every two years, with the last renewal on September 11, 2021.

**3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

The SAB is identified as a scientific/technical advisory committee. The objective of the SAB is to provide independent advice and peer review to EPA's Administrator on the scientific and technical aspects of environmental issues. While the SAB reports to the EPA Administrator, congressional committees specified in ERDDAA may ask the EPA Administrator to have the SAB provide scientific advice on a particular issue. The SAB will review scientific issues, provide independent scientific and technical advice on EPA's major programs, and perform special assignments as requested by Agency officials.

As appropriate, the SAB will consult and coordinate its work with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention's FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel and Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals, the Office of Research and Development's Board of Scientific Counselors, and other Federal Advisory Committees.

**4. Description of Duties:**

The duties of the SAB are solely to review and provide EPA advice and recommendations on:

- a. The adequacy and scientific basis of any proposed criteria document, standard, limitation, or regulation under the Clean Air Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or any other authority of the Administrator;

- b. The scientific and technical adequacy of Agency programs, guidelines, documents, methodologies, protocols and tests;
- c. New or revised scientific criteria or standards for protection of human health and the environment;
- d. New information needs and the quality of Agency plans and programs for research, development and demonstration; and
- e. The relative importance of various natural and anthropogenic pollution sources.

**5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports:**

The SAB will report its advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator. When an SAB report addresses a request for scientific advice from one of the congressional committees specified in ERDDAA, the EPA will forward the SAB's advice to the requesting congressional committee.

**6. Support:**

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of the Administrator. EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate.

**7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years:**

The estimated annual operating cost of the SAB is \$2,300,000 which includes 13.0 staff years of support. EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate.

**8. Designated Federal Officer:**

The SAB Staff Director will appoint full-time employees of EPA as the Designated Federal Officers (DFO) for the SAB and its committees and panels. A DFO (or an alternate) will be present at all meetings. The DFO will approve the meeting agenda in advance and ensure that each meeting is conducted in accordance with FACA, including availability of meeting materials. The DFO has the authority to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so, and will chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the committee reports.

**9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

There will be approximately 6-8 meetings of the SAB each year. Meetings may occur as needed and approved by the SAB Staff Director. In addition, there will be approximately 20-25 meetings of SAB's committees and panels each year, as needed and approved by the SAB Staff Director.

The SAB uses the term “committee” to mean a standing subcommittee of the chartered SAB.

As required by FACA, SAB meetings will be open to the public unless the Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Consistent with EPA policy, SAB committee and panel meetings generally will be open to the public. Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before, or file comments with the SAB, and its committees and panels.

**10. Duration:**

Continuing.

**11. Termination:**

This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After this two-year period, the charter may be renewed in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

**12. Membership and Designation:**

The SAB will be composed of about 45 members. The number of members may be adjusted as necessary to provide leadership to SAB committees and panels. Most SAB members will serve as Special Government Employees. Members will be independent experts in the fields of science, engineering, and economics and other social sciences to provide a range of expertise required to assess the scientific and technical aspects of environmental issues. In addition, the chair of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee will be an SAB member. In accordance with Executive Order 14035 (June 25, 2021) and consistent with law, EPA values and welcomes opportunities to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility on its federal advisory committees. EPA’s federal advisory committees have a workforce that reflects the diversity of the American people.

**13. Subcommittees:**

Pursuant to 42 USC 4365 (e)(2), EPA, in consultation with the SAB, established a standing agriculture –related committee to provide scientific and technical advice to the chartered SAB relating to matters referred to the SAB that are determined, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to have a significant direct impact on farming- and agriculture-related industries. EPA, in consultation with the SAB, may form additional committees, panels, or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such committees, panels or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the chartered SAB for full deliberation, discussion and approval. Each committee, panel or workgroup will be chaired by a member of the chartered SAB. Most members of SAB committees, panels, and workgroups will serve as Special Government Employees. Committees, panels, and workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the SAB and may not report directly to the Agency.

**14. Recordkeeping:**

The records of the committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, will be handled in accordance with NARA General Records Schedule 6.2 and EPA Records Schedule 1024 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, these records will be available for public inspection and copying, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**15. Filing:**

AUG 17 2023

Agency Approval Date

July 11, 2023

GSA Consultation Completion Date

September 6, 2023

Date Filed with Congress