

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7537-6]

**Science Advisory Board Staff Office;
Request for Nominations for a U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency
Science Advisory Board Ad Hoc
Committee To Be Known as the
Homeland Security Advisory
Committee (HSAC)****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces the formation of a new SAB *ad hoc* Committee on Homeland Security known as the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC), and is soliciting nominations for members of the Committee.

DATES: Nominations should be submitted in time to arrive by August 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be submitted in electronic format through the *Form for Nominating Individuals to Panels of the EPA Science Advisory Board* provided on the SAB Web site. The form can be accessed through a link on the blue navigational bar on the SAB Web site, www.epa.gov/sab. To be considered, all nominations should include the information requested on that form. Anyone who is unable to access nominations on the SAB Web site can obtain a paper copy of the form by contacting Dr. Philip Sayre, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), as indicated below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Request for Nomination may contact Dr. Philip Sayre, by telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-7673, or via e-mail at sayre.phil@epa.gov. Those unable to access the nomination forms through the above Web site can contact Dr. Sayre at the following address: Philip Sayre, Ph.D., Science Advisory Board Staff Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Mail Code 1400A), Suite 6450-R, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001. General information about the SAB can be found in the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Summary:* The EPA SAB Staff Office is announcing the formation of a new *ad hoc* Committee to help provide advice through the SAB to the Administrator, and other officials in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on

matters pertaining to EPA's mission in protecting against the environmental and health consequences of terrorism. The SAB Staff Office is soliciting nominations for members of the new Committee.

This Committee is being formed to help provide advice to the Agency, as part of the SAB's mission, established by 42 U.S.C. 4365, to provide independent scientific and technical advice, consultation, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA regulations.

The work of this Committee is expected to continue for approximately two to three years; the background for the effort is described below. Committee members will help provide advice to the Agency through the SAB. The EPA Administrator may determine that a particular HSAC meeting be partially or fully closed when matters under discussion are covered by one of the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b) open meeting exceptions. The SAB is a chartered Federal Advisory Committee that reports directly to the Administrator.

The HSAC will comply with the openness provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and all appropriate SAB procedural policies, including the SAB process for panel formation described in the *EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Panel Formation Process: Immediate Steps To Improve Policies and Procedures—An SAB Commentary* (EPA-SAB-EC-COM-002-003), <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ecm02003.pdf>.

Background: EPA is supporting the President's National Strategy for Homeland Security and the new Department of Homeland Security in specific areas. In keeping with EPA's traditional mission of protecting human health and the environment, the Agency's mission includes protection of the country against the environmental and health consequences of acts of terrorism. EPA is responsible for assisting public and private utilities in securing the nation's drinking and wastewater infrastructure, for assisting those responsible for indoor air, for working with the Department of Homeland Security to support the enhancement of security for our chemical industry and hazardous materials sector, and for responding to and recovering from acts of biological, chemical, certain radiological, and other terrorist attacks. For example, recently EPA has monitored environmental conditions to help protect workers in and around the World Trade Center, and developed and implemented a plan for

decontaminating the Hart Senate Office Building. For more information on the EPA Homeland Security Strategic Plan, please see http://www.epa.gov/epahome/headline_100202.htm.

The EPA organizations involved in implementation of Homeland Security include the following: The Office of Research and Development (ORD); the Office of Water (OW); the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER); the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR); the Office of Pesticides, Prevention, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS); the Office of Environmental Information (OEI); and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA). Further, two new organizations within EPA have been formed to address homeland security matters: the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) which coordinates activities across the Agency, and the Office of Research and Development's (ORD's) National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC). The NHSRC has a 3-year mission to provide appropriate, effective and rapid risk assessment guidelines and technologies to help decision-makers prepare for, detect, contain, and decontaminate chemical and biological attacks directed against buildings and water treatment systems.

The Agency has asked the EPA Science Advisory Board to form an expert group to advise senior managers on matters related to homeland security. Examples of consultations for the Committee could include the following: (1) Detection and characterization of contaminants in water and air, response and mitigation, and prevention and protection; (2) improvements to rapid risk assessment for terrorist agents such as development of information systems and tools, risk estimates and risk communication methodologies; and (3) verification of the performance of technologies that can be used to monitor and ensure the quality of the nation's drinking water supplies, and technologies for use in monitoring indoor environments.

Charge to the Panel: When specific issues are identified for SAB advice, a charge to the Panel and the initiation of SAB HSAC activities will be announced on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab/panels/paneltopics.html>.

Request for Nominations: The EPA SAB Staff Office requests nominations of individuals who are regarded as national and international level experts in homeland security to serve as Committee members. Areas of expertise sought include at least the following: (a) Atmospheric sciences and air modeling;