

"budget(s)" refers to the mobile source emissions budget for carbon monoxide (CO). The word "SIP" in this document refers to the State Implementation Plan revision submitted to satisfy the commitment of the City of Albuquerque to revise its mobile source budgets for the Albuquerque maintenance area with MOBILE6. (MOBILE6 is the most recent emissions factor model, released by EPA on January 29, 2001.)

On May 15, 2003, we received the MOBILE6 SIP revision for the Albuquerque carbon monoxide maintenance area. The revised carbon monoxide budgets, reported in tons per day (tpd), are as follows:

Year	CO (in tpd)
1996	416.31
1999	373.05
2002	369.53
2005	367.28
2006	312.65

On May 23, 2003, the availability of these budgets was posted on EPA's Web site for the purpose of soliciting public comments. The comment period closed on June 23, 2003, and we received no comments.

Today's notice is simply an announcement of a finding that we have already made. EPA Region 6 sent a letter to the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department on July 15, 2003, finding that the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Albuquerque carbon monoxide maintenance area are adequate and must be used for transportation conformity determinations.

Transportation conformity is required by Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. EPA's conformity rule, 40 CFR part 93, requires that transportation plans, programs and projects conform to SIPs and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do so. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The criteria by which EPA determines whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). Please note that such an adequacy review is separate from EPA's completeness review, and it should not be used to prejudge EPA's ultimate approval of the SIP. Even if we find a budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved.

On March 2, 1999, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that budgets

contained in submitted SIPs cannot be used for conformity determinations unless EPA has affirmatively found the conformity budget adequate. We have described our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in the policy guidance dated May 14, 1999, and titled Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999, Conformity Court Decision. We followed this guidance in making our adequacy determination. You may obtain a copy of this guidance from EPA's conformity Web site or by contacting us at the address above.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: July 29, 2003.

Lawrence E. Starfield,
Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 6.
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL -7540-6]

Science Advisory Board Staff Office; Request for Nominations for Experts for a Science Advisory Board Panel on Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling (CREM) Guidance Advisory Panel

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office is announcing the formation of a new SAB panel to provide advice on EPA's interim guidance on environmental models and development of a models knowledge base, and is soliciting nominations for members of the panel.

DATES: Nominations should be submitted no later than August 27, 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 must include the information required on that form. Anyone who is unable to submit nominations via this form may contact Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian, 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. K. Jack Kooyoomjian, (DFO), U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office; 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Suite 6450, Washington, DC 20460; by telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-4557; by fax at (202) 501-0582; or via e-mail at kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office is announcing the formation of a new Advisory Panel, known as the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling (CREM) Guidance Advisory Panel to provide advice on issues related to EPA's Interim Guidance on Environmental Models as well as the development of a models knowledge base. The interim guidance is meant to outline best practices in the development, evaluation and use of environmental models that inform the decision-making process, while the knowledge base is a web-accessible inventory of environmental models intended to promote transparency in the data, algorithms, assumptions, and uncertainties underlying models and to enable developers and analysts to more easily identify information needs.

The CREM Guidance Advisory Panel is being formed to provide advice to the Agency, as part of the EPA SAB's mission, established by 42 U.S.C. 4365, to provide independent scientific and technical advice, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA decision making. The SAB is a chartered Federal Advisory Committee, which reports directly to the Administrator.

Background: In its mission to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment, EPA must often make decisions that attempt to minimize the *potential* human and ecological health risks posed by certain activities (*e.g.*, the release of toxic chemicals to the environment). EPA uses mathematical models to anticipate possible future events, and to simulate the behavior of systems where monitoring data are difficult to obtain or limited due to resource constraints.

In its continuing efforts to assist EPA maintain the scientific credibility of its decisions, the SAB has consistently recommended that EPA institutionalize a cross-Agency approach to model assessment and use. In 1989, the SAB suggested that such an approach would help avoid the inappropriate secondary use of models and reduce duplication in modeling efforts for similar applications thereby conserving Agency resources. In