

review of the NAAQS for PM were announced in a previous **Federal Register** notice (62 FR 55201, October 23, 1997).

The purpose of the Staff Paper is to evaluate the policy implications of the key scientific and technical information contained in a related EPA document, Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (AQCD), and identify critical elements that EPA staff believe should be considered in reviewing the PM NAAQS. The Staff Paper is intended to "bridge the gap" between the scientific review contained in the Air Quality Criteria document and the public health and welfare policy judgments required of the Administrator in reviewing the NAAQS.

In June, 2001, a preliminary draft of this Staff Paper was released for public review and comment and for consultation with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) at a public meeting in July 2001 (66 FR 32621, June 15, 2001). The preliminary draft Staff Paper was based on information contained in the second external review draft of the AQCD that was previously made available by the National Center for Environmental Assessment of EPA's Office of Research and Development for public review and comment (66 FR 18929, April 12, 2001). A fourth external review draft of the AQCD has recently been made available for public review and comment (66 FR 18929, June 30, 2003), and for review by CASAC at a public meeting on August 25–26, 2003.

Building upon an earlier preliminary draft Staff Paper (EPA, 2001), and taking into account the information in the fourth external review draft of the AQCD, this first draft Staff Paper includes results from initial staff analyses (e.g., analyses of air quality and visibility data, and human health risk analyses), plans for additional analyses to be incorporated into a subsequent draft of this document, and preliminary staff conclusions and recommendations on the PM NAAQS.

As a first step in developing a health risk assessment for the PM NAAQS review, OAQPS previously released for public and CASAC review (67 FR 3897, January 28, 2002) a draft document, Proposed Methodology for Particulate Matter Risk Analysis for Selected Urban Areas. EPA has considered comments provided in a CASAC advisory on this draft document (May 23, 2002, EPA–SAB–CASAC–ADV–02–002, <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/casacadv02002.pdf>) and from a CASAC consultation held on May 1, 2003 (68 FR 17939, April 14, 2003), as well as public comments in developing the draft Risk

Assessment being released at this time. The draft Risk Assessment describes and presents the preliminary results from a PM health risk assessment for fine particles (PM_{2.5}), coarse fraction particles (PM_{10–2.5}), and PM₁₀. The risk assessment methodology and preliminary results also are summarized in the first draft Staff Paper.

The first draft Staff Paper and draft Risk Assessment will be reviewed at a public meeting of the CASAC to be held later this year. A future **Federal Register** notice will inform the public of the date and location of that meeting. Following the CASAC meeting, EPA will prepare a second draft Staff Paper and Risk Assessment, taking into account public and CASAC comments and results of additional analyses, and will make the revised draft documents available for review and comment by CASAC and the public.

B. How Can I Get Copies of These Documents?

1. *Docket.* The EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. OAR–2001–0017. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to the PM NAAQS review. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Air Docket in the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The Docket telephone number is (202) 566–1744; fax (202) 566–1741. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

2. *Electronic Access.* An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to access the documents specifically referenced in this action. These documents are also available at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/s_pm_index.html; the draft Staff Paper is available under "Staff Papers" and the draft Risk Assessment document is available under "Technical Documents." You may also use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official

public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. The EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified above. EPA intends to work towards providing electronic access to all of the publicly available docket materials through EPA's electronic public docket. For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in EPA's electronic public docket. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket.

Public comments submitted on computer disks that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be transferred to EPA's electronic public docket. Public comments that are mailed or delivered to the Docket will be scanned and placed in EPA's electronic public docket. Where practical, physical objects will be photographed, and the photograph will be placed in EPA's electronic public docket along with a brief description written by the docket staff.

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