

committee Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. App.).

Background: In the past, the Council has relied on a Subcommittee called the Health and Ecological Effects Subcommittee (HEES) to provide advice on assessments of both health and ecological effects used in such analyses. On February 14, 2003, the SAB Staff Office published a **Federal Register** notice (68 FR 7531–7534), requesting nominations for the HEES as well as for another Subcommittee of the Council, the Air Quality Modeling Subcommittee, and for additional expertise needed for the Council itself. Background on the history and mandate given to the Council may be found in the referenced **Federal Register** notice.

On May 29, 2003, the SAB Staff Office published on the SAB website a Memorandum entitled “US EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office’s Selection of Experts to Augment the Expertise of the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis to form a Special Council Panel for the Review of the Third 812 Analysis, the Air Quality Modeling Subcommittee, and the Health Effects Subcommittee” (see <http://www.epa.gov/science1/pdf/councilpanelselectionmemo.pdf>). In that memorandum, the Staff Office described its decision to focus the HEES on health effects and to rename it the “Health Effects Subcommittee” (HES).

The SAB Staff Office made the decision regarding the HES and the decision to establish the EES because of the importance of ecological issues to the Council, which noted in its most recent report, *Review of the Draft Analytical Plan for EPA’s Second Prospective Analysis—Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act 1990–2020*, EPA–SAB–COUNCIL–ADV–01–004, that a “major effort” was needed “to develop credible methods to quantify and monetize the effects of marginal changes in air pollution on ecosystem processes” and to include non-market ecosystem services in future reports.

The general charge to the EES will be to assist the Council in: (a) Reviewing data to be used for any analysis of ecological effects required under section 312 of the CAA; (b) reviewing the methodology used to analyze such data and make recommendations on the use of such methodology; and (c) prior to the issuance of a report to Congress required under section 312 of the CAA, reviewing the findings of the report and make recommendations concerning the validity and utility of such findings. Members of the EES will provide advice to the Agency, through the council, over a two-year period.

The initial charge questions to be addressed by the EES related to the Agency’s draft analytical plan are identified below. Expertise needed to address these questions and to meet the general charge to the EES identified in the paragraph immediately above are identified below under the heading “SAB Staff Office Request for Nominations.”

Subsequent to the publication of the **Federal Register** notice referenced above, the SAB Staff Office issued another request for nominations on a related but separate advisory topic. This request was entitled “Science Advisory Board; Request for Nominations for Experts for a Panel on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services” (68 FR 11082–11084, March 7, 2003). The charge to this new Committee is to assess Agency needs and the state of the art and science of valuing protection of ecological systems and services, and then to identify key areas for improving knowledge, methodologies, practice, and research. This charge includes many of the kinds of issues discussed in the Council Advisory Report for the Agency as a whole. SAB Staff Office decisions relating to the formation of this advisory group, were documented in a memorandum, “US EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services: Description of Process for Forming the Committee,” dated August 11, 2003 and posted on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/science1/panels/vpesspanel.html>. The Memorandum identifies the members of the Committee, who were selected from a “Short List” of 44 experts chosen from the nearly 150 experts nominated through the SAB Staff Office nomination process announced in the March 7, 2003, **Federal Register** notice.

The SAB Staff Office is issuing this notice in light of three considerations: (1) The February 14, 2003, **Federal Register** Request for Nominations for the Council and its subcommittees already included a request for nominees with expertise in ecosystem effects related to air pollution; (2) the “Short List” of experts resulting from the March 7, 2003, **Federal Register** Request for Nominations that led to the formation of the Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services already included ecologists with expertise appropriate for the EES; and (3) the “Short List” of ecological scientists resulting from the March 7, 2003, **Federal Register** notice included the two ecologists identified in response to the February 14, 2003, call.

Considering the experts already identified, the SAB Staff Office will derive an initial “Short List” for the EES from the experts in ecology identified from the two previous requests for nominations and is providing the public with a brief final opportunity to provide additional nominations before the EES is formed. The candidates on this initial “Short List” will be posted on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/science1/panels/scpanel812heesaqms.htm>.

Initial Charge Questions for the EES: The two initial charge questions to be addressed by the EES relate to the Agency’s review document “Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act 1990–2020: Revised Analytical Plan For EPA’s Second Prospective Analysis” and are identified below:

A. Does the Council support the plans described in chapter 7 for (a) qualitative characterization of the ecological effects of Clean Air Act-related air pollutants, (b) an expanded literature review, and (c) a quantitative, ecosystem-level case study of ecological service flow benefits? If there are particular elements of these plans which the Council does not support, are there alternative data or methods the Council recommends?

2. Initial plans described in chapter 7 reflect a preliminary EPA decision to base the ecological benefits case study on Waquoit Bay in Massachusetts. Does the Council support these plans? If the Council does not support these specific plans, are there alternative case study designs the Council recommends?

Document Availability: Links to EPA’s past studies of the costs and benefits of the CAA, and to review material for the Council and its Subcommittees can be found at the following Web site, maintained by EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation at: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/sect812/>. A link to the review document “Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act 1990–2020: Revised Analytical Plan For EPA’s Second Prospective Analysis” can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/mainbody51203.pdf>.

SAB Staff Office Request for Nominations: Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals for membership on the EES. Individuals should have expertise in one or more of the following areas: (a) *Ecosystem Effects Related to Air Pollution*, and (b) *Assessment of Ecological Effects for Benefits Analyses*.

Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations or for Submitting Information: Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals to serve as subcommittee members in the areas described above. The nominating form requests contact