

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further details concerning this review, including background information, availability of meeting materials, opportunity for public comment, and the charge to the STRP, please refer to the initial **Federal Register** notice (67 FR 79912), dated December 31, 2002. Information concerning related public teleconference meetings is also contained in that notice.

Dated: January 29, 2003.

**Vanessa Vu,**

*Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.*

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[FRL-7451-3]**

### **EPA Science Advisory Board; Notification of Radiation Advisory Committee Meeting; Request for Comments on the Consultative Panel**

*Purpose of this Notice:* To: (1) Announce a public meeting of a Federal advisory committee, and (2) solicit public comment on the proposed consultative panel.

#### **1. Meeting of the Radiation Advisory Committee—(February 25–27, 2003)**

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on February 25–27, 2003 to conduct a consultation on two supplements being developed for the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM). The RAC will also conduct some general committee business. It will receive briefings and program updates on a variety of EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) projects and it will discuss future projects. The meeting is open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. *Important Notice:* Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews or consultations are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents generated by the SAB and the relevant Program Office is included below.

The meeting will begin on Tuesday, February 25 at 9 a.m. and adjourn no later than 5:30 p.m. that day. On Wednesday, February 26, the meeting will begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and

adjourn no later than 5:30 p.m. that day. On Thursday, February 27, 2003, the meeting will begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and adjourn no later than 3:30 p.m. that day. All times noted are Eastern Time. The meeting will take place in the EPA Headquarters Building East Conference Room 1117A, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004. For further information concerning the meeting, please contact the individuals listed at the end of this **Federal Register** notice.

*Availability of the Meeting Materials:* Materials for the meeting will be available at the meeting. The proposed agenda for the meeting will be posted approximately 10 calendar days prior to the meeting at the SAB's Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>). For questions and information concerning the agenda, please contact Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Designated Federal Officer for the SAB's RAC at the locations provided below in this notice. For information pertaining to the MARSSIM consultation and ORIA Program Office information, please contact Dr. Mary E. Clark, Assistant Director, ORIA at the locations provided below in this notice.

#### **2. Background on the Consultation**

EPA's ORIA has requested the SAB to provide a consultation on two supplements being developed for the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM). [The first supplement will be the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Assessment of Materials and Equipment (MARSAME), and the second supplement will be the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Assessment of Subsurface Soils (MARSASS)]. These projects reflect planning for major extensions of a multi-Agency initiative to provide federal guidance on determining whether a radioactively-contaminated site (including equipment and subsurface soils) has been adequately cleaned up.

The original MARSSIM, which was released in December, 1997, was reviewed by the SAB's RAC. The SAB report on the original review of the MARSSIM topic is also available on the SAB Web site under the reports listings (<http://epa.gov/sab/pdf/rac9708.pdf>) as EPA-SAB-RAC-97-008, entitled *An SAB Report: Review of the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM)*, September, 1997. The URL site for the federal MARSSIM which was published after receipt of the SAB advice is <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/marssim/obtain.htm>.

The original scope of MARSSIM was limited to surface soils and building

surfaces to expedite the document's release. The SAB's RAN recommended that further expansions of scope be considered for subsequent editions of MARSSIM. The federal MARSSIM workgroup composed of members of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the state of Florida have obtained their respective Agencies' support to expand MARSSIM's scope, as recommended by the SAB, to include survey and assessment of materials and equipment as well as subsurface soils. Prior to preparing two draft documents incorporating these issues, the Federal MARSSIM workgroup will consult with the SAB's RAC so that the best available tools for these survey assessments will be developed.

In the consultation planned for February 25–27, the Agency is seeking advice on whether the technical plans to prepare supplements on subsurface soils and equipment are properly directed, and if there are any items, issues or practical applications that have not been considered that ought to be included by the federal MARSSIM workgroup in the current proposed plans.

#### **3. Solicitation of Public Comment on the Proposed Consultative Panel**

A "consultation" is one of several types of formal interaction between the Agency and the Science Advisory Board. The purpose of a consultation is to conduct an early discussion between the Agency and the SAB to help articulate important issues in the development of a project. The meeting is public and consists of briefings and discussions. In some cases a partial document, or an early draft may be available to serve as a basis for discussions. A charge is often used, but is less focused than that used in a formal peer review. No consensus advice is sought and no report is generated by the SAB.

To provide the Agency with meaningful input, we have determined that the following expertise, knowledge and experience is needed for the MARSSIM consultation: general expertise in radiological protection and health physics (includes radiation risk); knowledge of collection and detection techniques; statistical methods for radiological applications; knowledge of hydrogeological considerations (includes knowledge of saturated and unsaturated zone transport, fractured flow mechanics, and transport modeling of such phenomena); and knowledge of practical applications of cleanup and