

Dated: June 29, 2004.

Deborah Y. Dietrich,

Director, Office of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7785-5]

Science Advisory Board Staff Office

Request for Nominations for the Science Advisory Board Second Generation Model Advisory Panel

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces the formation of a new advisory panel known as the SAB Second Generation Model (SGM) Advisory Panel, and is soliciting nominations for members of the Panel.

DATES: Nominations should be submitted by July 30, 2004, per the instructions below.

ADDRESSES: Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Request for Nominations may contact Dr. Holly Stallworth, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), via telephone/voice mail at (202) 343-9867; via e-mail at stallworth.holly@epa.gov or at the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (1400F), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. General information about the SAB can be found on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Dr. Holly Stallworth at (202) 343-9867.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs (OAP) requested that the SAB provide advice on a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model known as the Second Generation Model (SGM). This regionally disaggregated model of the global economy is a computer program that uses input-output relationships and simultaneous equations to simulate activities in multiple markets (e.g., labor markets, energy fuels markets, and final goods markets) in the economy. These models consider major economic actors (households, government, and firms) as well as other important aspects of the economy, including demographics, resources, energy supply, and capital flows. The SGM is a 14 region, 22 sector

CGE model that can be used to project greenhouse gas emissions and determine the costs of various options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. carbon fees or charges, allowance trading, accelerated energy conservation).

The SAB is a chartered Federal Advisory Committee, 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 policies and actions. The SAB SGM Advisory Panel will provide advice through the chartered SAB and will comply with the openness provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and all appropriate SAB procedural policies. The work of this panel includes reviewing background material, participating in a few public teleconferences, and attending one or more public face-to-face meetings, until the advisory is complete.

Tentative Charge to the SAB Panel: EPA's OAP requested that the SAB provide comments on the appropriateness and usefulness of the SGM model for estimating the economic effects of climate policies. Proposed specific charge questions to the SAB SGM Advisory Panel are as follows.

1. Are the model's structure and fundamental assumptions consistent with economic theory?
2. Are the parameter values employed in the model (e.g., elasticities of substitution and of demand, price and income) within the range of values in the literature?
3. Are the model's parameterizations of physical phenomena logical, and are its projections of future energy use and efficiency reasonable, given fundamental physical constraints and rates of technological change?
4. Are the model's outputs and projections for short-, medium-, and long-term analyses reasonable and within the range of expert opinion?
5. In what areas is the model most in need of further development and refinement?

EPA Technical Contact: An extensive and detailed documentation of SGM's structure, parameters and assumptions, as well as a shorter overview paper, will be available on EPA's OAP's Web site. Mr. Michael Leifman of OAP is the EPA technical contact and may be contacted at (202) 343-9380 or at leifman.michael@epa.gov.

Request for Nominations: The SAB Staff Office is requesting nominations of recognized experts with one or more of the following expertise to serve on the SAB SGM Advisory Panel: (a) Energy

economics; (b) environmental economics; (c) economic modeling of climate options; (d) computable general equilibrium modeling; (e) technological change and diffusion; and (f) climate science.

Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations: Any interested person or organization may nominate individuals qualified in the areas of expertise described above to serve on the SAB SGM Advisory Panel. Nominations should be submitted in electronic format through the Form for Nominating Individuals to Panels of the EPA Science Advisory Board which can be accessed through a link on the blue navigational bar on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>. To be considered, all nominations must include the information requested on that form.

Anyone who is unable to submit nominations using this form, and any questions concerning any aspects of the nomination process may contact the DFO, as indicated above in this notice. Nominations should be submitted in time to arrive no later than July 30, 2004. Any questions concerning either this process or any other aspects of this notice should be directed to the DFO. The process for forming a SAB panel is described in the Overview of the Panel Formation Process at the Environmental Protection Agency, Science Advisory Board (EPA-SAB-EC-COM-02-010), on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ecm02010.pdf>.

The SAB Staff Office will acknowledge receipt of the nomination and inform nominators of the panel selected. From the nominees identified by respondents to this **Federal Register** notice (termed the "Widecast"), the SAB Staff Office will develop a smaller subset (known as the "Short List") for more detailed consideration. The Short List will be posted on the SAB Web Site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>, and will include, for each candidate, the nominee's name and biosketch. Public comments on the Short List will be accepted for 21 calendar days. During this comment period, the public will be requested to provide information, analysis or other documentation on nominees that the SAB Staff Office should consider in evaluating candidates for the Panel.

For the SAB, a balanced panel (i.e., committee, subcommittee, or panel) is characterized by inclusion of candidates who possess the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to

adequately address the charge. Public responses to the Short List candidates will be considered in the selection of the panel, along with information provided by candidates and information gathered by SAB Staff independently of the background of each candidate (e.g., financial disclosure information and computer searches to evaluate a nominee's prior involvement with the topic under review). Specific criteria to be used in evaluation of an individual Panel member include: (a) Scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) absence of financial conflicts of interest; (c) scientific credibility and impartiality; (d) availability and willingness to serve; and (e) ability to work constructively and effectively in committees.

Short List candidates will be required to fill-out the "Confidential Financial Disclosure Form for Special Government Employees Serving on Federal Advisory Committees at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency" (EPA Form 3110-48). This confidential form allows Government officials to determine whether there is a statutory conflict between that person's public responsibilities (which includes membership on an EPA Federal advisory committee) and private interests and activities, or the appearance of a lack of impartiality, as defined by Federal regulation. The form may be viewed and downloaded from the following URL address: <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/epaform3110-48.pdf>.

Dated: June 29, 2004.

Vanessa T. Vu,

Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6653-5]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167. An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published

in the **Federal Register** dated April 2, 2004 (69 FR 17403).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-L65455-ID Rating EC2, Clearwater National Forest, Proposes to Approve Plans-of-Operation for Small-Scale Suction Dredging in Lolo Creek and Moose Creek, Clearwater National Forest, North Fork Ranger District, Clearwater and Idaho Counties, ID.

Summary: EPA expressed concern due to water quality impacts related to suction dredge operations. EPA recommends that the final EIS discuss the proposed 303(d) listing of Lolo Creek and how this will affect management of the project area.

ERP No. D-FTA-K53010-CA Rating EC2, Gold Line Phase II—Pasadena to Montclair—Foothill Extension, To Address Transportation Problems and Deficiencies, Cities of Pasadena, Arcadia, Monrovia, Durate, Irwindale, Azusa, Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona and Claremont in Los Angeles County and Cities of Montclair and Upland in San Bernardino County, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding impacts to air quality, waters of the U.S., biological resources, and hazardous materials management. EPA recommends additional information in the FEIS regarding these resources.

ERP No. D-NPS-K61159-CA Rating LO, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Middle and South Forks of the Kings River and North Fork of the Kern River, General Management Plan, Tulare and Fresno Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed a lack of objections to the project, but suggested additional information in the FEIS regarding expansion of the parks' shuttle system, air quality standards, and stock use mitigation measures.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-F65040-WI, Programmatic EIS—Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Langlade, Oconto, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, Taylor and Vilas Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA's previous comments were addressed in the Final EIS. Therefore, EPA has no objection to the proposed action.

ERP No. F-AFS-H65015-NB, Pine Ridge Geographic Area Rangeland Allotment Management Planning, To Permit Livestock Grazing on 34 Allotments, Nebraska National Forest, Pine Ridge Ranger District, Dawes and Sioux Counties, NB.

Summary: EPA's concerns identified in the Draft EIS were addressed in the Final EIS. Therefore, EPA was no objection to the proposed action.

ERP No. F-AFS-J65394-MT, Basin Creek and Blacktail Hazardous Watershed Fuels Reduction Project, Implementation, Highland Mountains, Butte Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Butte-Silver Bow County, MT.

Summary: EPA supports the need to protect the Basin Creek municipal watershed for the City of Butte, and to reduce hazardous fuels and fire risk. However, given concerns with the potential impacts to water quality EPA stressed the need to avoid impacts to water quality in the municipal watershed during hazardous fuel reduction treatments.

ERP No. F-IBR-L39059-WA, Banks Lake Drawdown Project, Proposal to Lower the Water Surface Elevation from 1565 feet to 1560 feet in August of each year, Columbia River, Douglas and Grant Counties, WA.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-NPS-K65244-CA, Yosemite Fire Management Plan, Alternative for Carrying out the Fire Management Program, Implementation, Yosemite National Park, Sierra Nevada, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Madera and Mono Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed a lack of objections to the project. However, as the project area was recently redesignated as nonattainment for the new eight-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard, EPA recommends that the ROD reflect the need to meet conformity requirements at 40 CFR 93.150-93.160 after June 15, 2005.

ERP No. FR-BLM-G70005-NM, Sierra and Otero Counties Resource Management Plan Amendment and Federal Fluid Minerals Leasing and Development, Additional Information to Improve the Public Understanding of the Proposed Plan, Implementation, Sierra and Otero Counties, NM.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

Dated: July 6, 2004.

Ken Mittelholtz,

Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities.

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