

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces a public teleconference and meeting of the Ethylene Oxide (EtO) Review Panel to review the Agency's draft assessment, "Evaluation of the Carcinogenicity of Ethylene Oxide".

**DATES:** The SAB will hold the public teleconference on December 8, 2006. The teleconference will begin at 1 p.m. and end at 4 p.m. (Eastern Time). A face-to-face meeting will be held on January 18, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) and will continue on January 19, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time).

*Location:* Telephone conference will be conducted by phone only. The venue for the January 18–19, 2007 face-to-face meeting will be announced on the SAB Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public wishing to obtain general information concerning this public teleconference or meeting should contact Dr. Sue Shallal, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), EPA Science Advisory Board (1400F), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; via telephone/voice mail: (202) 343–9977; fax: (202) 233–0643; or e-mail at: [shallal.suhair@epa.gov](mailto:shallal.suhair@epa.gov). General information concerning the EPA Science Advisory Board can be found on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, notice is hereby given that the EPA SAB will hold a public teleconference to review a draft EPA assessment. The SAB was established by 42 U.S.C. 4365 to provide independent scientific and technical advice to the Administrator on the technical basis for Agency positions and regulations. The SAB is a Federal Advisory Committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. The SAB will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

*Background:* EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) has requested that the Science Advisory Board (SAB) review this draft entitled "Evaluation of the Carcinogenicity of Ethylene Oxide". EPA last published a health assessment of the potential carcinogenicity of ethylene oxide (EtO) in 1985 (U.S. EPA, 1985). EPA has now completed a review of the more recent database on the carcinogenicity of EtO, pertinent data from the 1985 assessment, and several

reviews and assessments issued by other organizations. This draft assessment focuses on lifetime cancer risk from inhalation exposure. In response to EPA's request, the SAB Staff Office formed a SAB Review Panel for EtO. Background information on the formation of the SAB EtO Review Panel can be found in the **Federal Register** Vol. 71, Number 40, page 10500–10501. This panel will provide advice and recommendations to EPA through the Chartered SAB and comply with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and all appropriate SAB procedural policies. The SAB Ethylene Oxide Review Panel is being asked to comment on the scientific soundness of this carcinogenicity assessment. The purpose of the public teleconference is to receive a briefing on the assessment and to clarify the charge to the panel. During the face-to-face meeting, the panel will review the assessment.

*Availability of Materials:* The draft agendas and other materials will be posted on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab> prior to each meeting. For questions and information concerning the Agency's draft assessment (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=157664>), please contact Dr. Henry Kahn, at (202) 564–3269, or [kahn.henry@epa.gov](mailto:kahn.henry@epa.gov).

*Procedures for Providing Public Input:* Interested members of the public may submit relevant written or oral information for the SAB to consider during the public teleconference and/or meeting. *Oral Statements:* In general, individuals or groups requesting an oral presentation at a public SAB teleconference will be limited to three minutes per speaker, with no more than a total of one-half hour for all speakers. At the face-to-face meeting, presentations will be limited to five minutes, with no more than a total of one hour for all speakers. To be placed on the public speaker list, interested parties should contact Dr. Sue Shallal, DFO, in writing (preferably via e-mail), by December 1, 2006 for the teleconference and by January 8, 2007 for the face-to-face meeting, at the contact information noted above.

*Written Statements:* Written statements should be received in the SAB Staff Office by December 1, 2006, so that the information may be made available to the SAB for their consideration prior to this teleconference or by January 8, 2007 for their consideration prior to the face-to-face meeting. Written statements should be supplied to the DFO in the following formats: One hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format:

Adobe Acrobat PDF, WordPerfect, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, or Rich Text files in IBM-PC/Windows 98/2000/XP format).

*Accessibility:* For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Dr. Sue Shallal at (202) 343–9977 or [shallal.suhair@epa.gov](mailto:shallal.suhair@epa.gov). To request accommodation of a disability, please contact Dr. Shallal preferably at least ten days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

Dated: November 8, 2006.

**Anthony F. Maciorowski,**  
Associate Director for Science, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.  
[FR Doc. E6–19170 Filed 11–13–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560–50–P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–8241–7]

### Science Advisory Board Staff Office; Notification of a Public Meeting of the Science Advisory Board Hypoxia Advisory Panel

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office is announcing a public meeting of the SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. (EST) December 6, 2006 to 1 p.m. December 8, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel located at 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public wishing further information regarding the public meeting may contact Dr. Holly Stallworth, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office by telephone/voice mail at (202) 343–9867, or via e-mail at [stallworth.holly@epa.gov](mailto:stallworth.holly@epa.gov). The SAB mailing address is: US EPA, Science Advisory Board (1400F), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. General information about the SAB, as well as any updates concerning the meeting announced in this notice, may be found in the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, notice is hereby

given that the SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting to develop a report that details advancements in the state of the science regarding hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. The SAB was established by 42 U.S.C. 4365 to provide independent scientific and technical advice to the Administrator on the technical basis for Agency positions and regulations. The SAB is a Federal Advisory Committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. The SAB will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

*Background:* EPA participates with other Federal agencies, states and tribes in the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force. In 2001, the Task Force released the Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (or Action Plan available at <http://www.epa.gov/msbasin/taskforce/actionplan.htm>). The Action Plan was informed by the science described in An Integrated Assessment of Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (or Integrated Assessment available at [http://www.noaa.gov/products/hypox\\_finalfront.pdf](http://www.noaa.gov/products/hypox_finalfront.pdf)) developed by the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Six technical reports provided the scientific foundation for the Integrated Assessment and are available at [http://www.nos.noaa.gov/products/pub\\_hypox.html](http://www.nos.noaa.gov/products/pub_hypox.html). The aforementioned documents provide a comprehensive summary of the state-of-the-science for the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone through about the year 2000.

EPA's Office of Water has requested that the SAB develop a report that evaluates the state-of-the-science regarding the causes and extent of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the scientific basis of possible management options in the Mississippi River Basin. The SAB is asked to focus on scientific advances since 2000 that may have increased scientific understanding and control options in three general areas.

1. *Characterization of the Cause(s) of Hypoxia.* The physical, biological and chemical processes that affect the development, persistence and extent of hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

2. *Characterization of Nutrient Fate, Transport and Sources.* Nutrient loadings, fate, transport and sources in the Mississippi River that impact Gulf Hypoxia.

3. *Scientific Basis for Goals and Management Options.* The scientific

basis for, and recommended revisions to, the goals proposed in the Action Plan; and the scientific basis for the efficacy of recommended management actions to reduce nutrient flux from point and nonpoint sources.

In response to EPA's request, the SAB Staff Office formed the SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel. Background on the Panel formation process was provided in a **Federal Register** notice published on February 17, 2006 (71 FR 8578–8580). The SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel met on September 6–7, 2006 to plan its work and organized itself into three subgroups corresponding to the three general areas described above. Background for the first meeting of the Hypoxia Advisory Panel was provided in a **Federal Register** published on August 9, 2006 (71 FR 45543–45544). The three subgroups of the Panel have held multiple public teleconferences to begin developing the Panel's report. Background information for the subgroup teleconferences was provided in **Federal Register** notices published on September 25, 2006 (71 FR 55786–55787) and October 6, 2006 (71 FR 59107). Information about the SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel is available on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

*Availability of Meeting Materials:* Materials in support of this meeting will be placed on the SAB Web site <http://www.epa.gov/sab/> in advance of the meeting.

*Procedures for Providing Public Input:* Interested members of the public may submit relevant written or oral information for the SAB to consider during the advisory process. *Oral Statements:* In general, individuals or groups requesting an oral presentation at a public meeting will be limited to five minutes per speaker, with no more than a total of one hour for all speakers. Interested parties should contact Dr. Stallworth, DFO, at the contact information noted above, no later than November 28, 2006, to be placed on the public speaker list for the December 6–8, 2006 meeting. *Written Statements:* Written statements should be received in the SAB Staff Office no later than November 28, 2006 so that the information may be made available to the SAB for their consideration prior to this meeting. Written statements should be supplied to the DFO in the following formats: One hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail to [stallworth.holly@epa.gov](mailto:stallworth.holly@epa.gov) (acceptable file format: Adobe Acrobat PDF, WordPerfect, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, or Rich Text files in IBM-PC/Windows 98/2000/XP format).

*Meeting Access:* For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Dr. Stallworth at (202) 343–9867 or [stallworth.holly@epa.gov](mailto:stallworth.holly@epa.gov). To request accommodation of a disability, please contact Dr. Stallworth, preferably at least 10 days prior to the meeting to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

Dated: November 7, 2006.

**Anthony F. Maciorowski,**

*Associate Director for Science, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.*

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**BILLING CODE 6560–50–P**

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at [www.ffiec.gov/nic/](http://www.ffiec.gov/nic/).

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than December 8, 2006.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta**  
(Andre Anderson, Vice President) 1000