

warrant. In such cases, EPA will explain why a different course was taken. Similarly, outside parties remain free to assert that a given policy is not appropriate for a specific pesticide or that the circumstances surrounding a specific risk assessment demonstrate that a given policy should be abandoned.

EPA has stated in this notice that it will make available revised guidance after consideration of public comment. Public comment is not being solicited for the purpose of converting these policy documents into binding rules. EPA will not be codifying these policies in the Code of Federal Regulations. EPA is soliciting public comment so that it can make fully informed decisions regarding the content of these guidance.

The "revised" guidance will not be unalterable documents. Once a "revised" guidance document is issued, EPA will continue to treat it as guidance, not a rule. Accordingly, on a case-by-case basis EPA will decide whether it is appropriate to depart from the guidance or to modify the overall approach in the guidance. In the course of commenting on the individual guidance documents, EPA would welcome comments that specifically address how the guidance documents can be structured so that they provide meaningful guidance without imposing binding requirements.

VI. Contents of Docket

Documents that are referenced in this notice will be inserted in the docket under the docket control numbers "OPP-00576," "OPP-00577," "OPP-00578" or "OPP-00579." In addition, the documents referenced in the framework notice, which published in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 1998 (63 FR 58038) have also been inserted in the docket under docket control number OPP-00557.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, pesticides and pests.

Dated: December 23, 1998.

Lynn R. Goldman,

Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 98-34736 Filed 12-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6214-6]

Science Advisory Board; Public Advisory Committee Meetings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that two Committees of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times described below. All times noted are Eastern Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office and are not available from the SAB Office. Public drafts of SAB reports are available to the Agency and the public from the SAB office. Details on availability are noted below.

1. Ecological Risk Subcommittee (ERS) of the SAB's Integrated Risk Project (IRP)—Teleconference

The Ecological Risk Subcommittee (ERS) of the SAB's Integrated Risk Project (IRP) will hold a working meeting via teleconference on Tuesday January 26, 1999, from 1:00–3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the SAB Conference Room (Room 3709), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. A limited number of teleconference lines will be available on a first come, first served basis for interested members of the public. The purpose of the working meeting will be to brief staff from the Agency's Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) on the draft methodology developed by the ERS for ranking ecological risks. The ERS was formed as part of the SAB's Integrated Risk Project, a multi-year SAB effort to update the 1990 report, Reducing Risk. The IRP full report, including the ERS chapter, is expected to be released for peer review this winter. A draft of the report was released April 1, 1998, and this draft will form the basis of the ERS discussion at this teleconference meeting.

For Further Information: Copies of the draft ERS chapter are available from Ms. Mary Winston, Science Advisory Board, telephone (202) 260-6557; FAX (202) 260-7118, or E-mail at winston.mary@epa.gov. Anyone interested in participating in the meeting should contact Ms. Stephanie Sanzone, Designated Federal Officer

(DFO) for the ERS, no later than 4:00 pm on January 21, 1999 at: USEPA, Science Advisory Board (1400), Washington, DC 20460, (202) 260-6557, FAX (202) 260-7118, or via E-Mail at sanzone.stephanie@epa.gov.

2. Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Executive Committee (EC)

The Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Executive Committee (EC) will meet on Wednesday, January 27, and Thursday, January 28, 1999. The meeting will convene each day at 8:30 am, in the Administrator's Conference Room 1103 West Tower of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building at 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, and adjourn no later than 5:30 pm on each day.

At this meeting, the Executive Committee will receive updates from its committees and subcommittees concerning their recent and planned activities. As part of these updates, some committees will present draft reports for Executive Committee review and approval. Copies of these drafts will be available on the SAB Website (see below for site address) two weeks prior to the meeting or may be obtained from Ms. Tillery-Gadson (see address below).

In addition, the Board anticipates interacting with various senior Agency officials on issues of general interest, as well as issues currently before or proposed for future Board consideration.

For Further Information: Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the meeting or who wishes to submit comments should contact Dr. Donald G. Barnes, Designated Federal Officer for the Executive Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400), U.S. EPA, Washington, DC 20460, phone (202)-260-4126; fax (202)-260-9232; or via Email at: barnes.don@epa.gov. Copies of the draft meeting agenda and the draft reports will be available on the SAB Website (www.epa.gov/sab) approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. Alternatively, these materials can be obtained from Ms. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson at the above phone and fax numbers or via Email: tillery.priscilla@epa.gov.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For conference call meetings,

opportunities for oral comment will be limited to no more than five minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total. Written comments (at least 35 copies) received in the SAB Staff Office sufficiently prior to the meeting date, may be mailed to the Subcommittee prior to its meeting; comments received too close to the meeting date will normally be provided to the Subcommittee at its meeting. Written comments may be provided to the Subcommittee up until the time of the meeting.

Information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found in The FY1998 Annual Report of the Staff Director which is available from the SAB Committee Evaluation and Support Staff (CESS) by contacting US EPA, Science Advisory Board (1400), Attention: CESS, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460 or via fax (202) 260-1889. Additional information concerning the SAB can be found on the SAB Website at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>

Individuals requiring special accommodation at this meeting, including wheelchair access, should contact the relevant DFO at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: December 23, 1998.

A. Robert Flaak,

Acting Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.
[FR Doc. 98-34821 Filed 12-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6214-4]

Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Cancer Guidelines Subcommittee of the Science Advisory Board Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 20 and Thursday, January 21, 1999, beginning no earlier than 8:30 am and ending no later than 5:30 pm on each day. All times noted are Eastern Time. The meeting is open to the public; however, seating will be on a first-come basis. The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14th & K Streets, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3411;

phone: (202) 682-0111. *Important Notice:* Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

Purpose—The purpose of the meeting is to conduct an advisory on the Agency's revisions to its Proposed Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment.

Background—In February, 1997, the Environmental Health Committee (EHC) of the Science Advisory Board met to review the Agency's Proposed Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment which were published in the **Federal Register** on April 23, 1996. During this meeting, the EHC responded to specific questions from the EPA's Risk Assessment Forum. At that time, the EHC addressed issues that Agency scientists and members of the public regarded as particularly important matters of science to be addressed to finalize the guidelines. The Environmental Health Committee provided its review report to the Agency, Guidelines for Cancer Risks Assessment (EPA-SAB-EHC-97-010), in September 1997. Since that time, the technical panel has been addressing the SAB recommendations in revising the Guidelines.

Since this meeting is an advisory, the Cancer Guidelines Subcommittee does not plan to conduct a full review of the revisions to the Proposed Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment. The Cancer Guidelines Subcommittee will provide technical advice on the Agency's plans to address the following four topics: (a) changes to the hazard descriptors for weight of evidence of human carcinogenic potential; (b) a framework for analysis of mode of action data; (c) illustrative examples of mode of action framework analysis; and (d) new dose response guidance methodologies with illustrative examples for margin of exposure analysis. The Cancer Guidelines Subcommittee has been asked to respond to the following issues:

1. Hazard Descriptors

(a) Please comment on the appropriateness and adequacy of the use of the narrative summary and the 5 hazard descriptors as a means of characterizing human carcinogenic potential.

(b) Please comment on the adequacy and clarity of the nature of the evidence applied to each of the proposed hazard descriptors.

2. Use of Mode of Action Information

(a) Sections 2.3.5-2.5 have been revised, please comment on the clarity and transparency of the guidance.

(b) Please comment on the proposed key elements and their use in supporting a mode of action conclusion via the framework (section 2.5).

(c) Please evaluate the usefulness of the case studies as illustrations of the guidance and framework.

3. Dose Response Analysis—Defining a Point of Departure

(a) Please comment on the soundness of the scientific rationale provided for the standard approach and options for selecting departure points.

(b) Please comment on the adequacy and clarity of the guidance on this subject.

4. Dose Response Analysis—Margin of Exposure Analysis

(a) Please comment on the adequacy and clarity of the guidance regarding how to perform a MOE analysis.

(b) Please comment on the appropriateness of the proposed approach and the factors for consideration in determining the appropriate magnitude of the MOE. Specifically address the use of factors to account for: (1) the nature of the response (i.e., tumors or key events selected as the point of departure for extrapolation); (2) steepness of the dose response curve; (3) human intraspecies variability, including susceptible populations; and (4) interspecies variability.

For Further Information on the Meeting: Copies of the background materials for the advisory are *not available* from the SAB. The EPA Risk Assessment Forum will post the background material by January 8, 1999, on its Internet website which is located at www.epa.gov/ncea/raf/rafpub.htm. Hardcopies of the background material may be requested by contacting Dr. William P. Wood, Executive Director, Risk Assessment Forum, U.S. EPA (8601-D), 401 M St., S.W., Washington, DC 20460; by telephone 202-564-3361; by fax 202-565-0062; or via E-mail at: wood.bill@epa.gov. General information about the cancer guidelines advisory or technical questions should also be directed to Dr. Wood.

Members of the public desiring additional information about the meeting, including an agenda, should contact Ms. Wanda R. Fields, Management Assistant, Science Advisory Board (1400), US EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington DC 20460, by telephone (202) 260-5510; by fax (202)