



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 17 2008

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. James K. Hammitt  
Chair  
Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis  
Science Advisory Board  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Hammitt:

I thank you and the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis for your work on the "Advisory on Health Benefits of Benzene Reductions in Houston, 1990-2020." Your thoughtful response to this air toxics case study will be helpful in advancing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ability to quantify the human health benefits of the air toxics program. We appreciate the Council's detailed recommendations and will document our responses and the analytical changes in the final iteration of this case study, which will be part of the larger Section 812 report, "The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, 1990 to 2020."

Several EPA offices are planning a workshop for early 2009 to continue our efforts on estimating benefits for reducing air toxics. We are incorporating some of your recommendations as part of this workshop. For example, we intend to commission white papers from experts in academia on issues raised in the advisory, such as exploring multi-pollutant approaches for estimating benefits (rather than a single pollutant approach outlined in our case study).

Thank you again for your detailed review. The Agency looks forward to continuing to work with you on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Johnson

*Dr. Hammitt  
Again,  
Thank you!  
JH*