

 An official website of the United States government
Here's how you know



Menu

Search EPA.gov

News Releases from Headquarters > Office of the Administrator (AO) > Office of Policy (OP)

CONTACT US <<https://epa.gov/newsreleases/forms/contact-us>>

EPA Announces Selections of Charter Members to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee

Concurrently, EPA issues a call for nominations for the CASAC Particulate Matter Panel

June 17, 2021

Contact Information

EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON (June 18, 2021) – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan announced his selections for membership of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The committee will be comprised of five women and two men, including three people of color, making it the most diverse panel since the committee was established. The Administrator's selections are well-qualified experts with a cross-section of scientific disciplines and experience needed to provide advice on the scientific and technical bases for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).



Decision Memo – Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Membership

Printed on MM/DD/YYYY

Filed: MM/DD/YYYY X:XX AM/PM (FOR SCHEDULING) (if updated note in italics and in green font).

DECISION MEMO

June DD, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Thomas Brennan, Science Advisory Board Staff Office,
202-564-6953, brennan.thomas@epa.gov

CC: Christopher Frey, Office of Research and Development
Alison Cassady, Office of the Administrator

SUBJECT: Recommendations to appoint members to the Clean Air Scientific
Advisory Committee (CASAC)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Science Advisory Board Staff Office (SABSO) provides recommendations for the Administrator’s consideration of CASAC appointments.

As part of Administrator Regan’s reset of CASAC membership, all seven CASAC members were dismissed on March 31, 2021. A public solicitation of nominations and public comments on prospective candidates have been completed. There is a need for the appointment of 7 CASAC members, including at least one member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), one physician, and one person representing State air pollution control agencies.

BACKGROUND

Established in 1977 as an amendment to the Clean Air Act, the CASAC provides independent advice to the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA’s National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The CASAC also addresses research related to air quality, sources of air pollution, and the strategies to attain and maintain air quality standards and to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. The Chair of the CASAC also serves as a member of the chartered Science Advisory Board. The CASAC is a statutory scientific and technical committee

1 of 5

Printed on MM/DD/YYYY

Decision Memo - Subject

Printed on MM/DD/YYYY

whose members are independent experts that do not represent the views of any organization or entity. The Clean Air Act specifies that the CASAC consist of 7 members, including at least one member of the NAS, one physician, and one person representing State air pollution control agencies.

An open solicitation of nominations was announced in the Federal Register on April 1, 2021. The public nomination process and outreach were successful, yielding 115 nominated candidates, 100 of which were interested in serving. The List of Candidates (Attachment 1) was posted on the CASAC website on May 10, 2021, for a 21-day public comment period that ended on June 1, 2021.

The majority of the 88 public comments were letters supporting individual candidates. A summary of the public comments is included in Attachment 2. Some themes that were emphasized throughout the comments were the need for: diversity, fresh perspectives, expertise in environmental justice, reinstitution of the use of pollutant-specific panels, and continuity in CASAC membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANALYSIS

SABSO has evaluated the 100 candidates on demonstrated competence, knowledge and expertise in scientific and technical fields of air pollution and air quality issues. The following are recommendations of top candidates (option 1) and top alternates (option 2). These are also provided in further detail in the Draft Membership Grid (Attachment 3).

RECOMMENDATION (Option 1): Appoint the following candidates for CASAC.

SABSO believes that appointment of the following candidates would result in a highly-qualified, diverse, and balanced CASAC. Moreover, it would provide a good mix of continuity of former CASAC members and new members with fresh perspectives.

Statutory Requirements

- Physician:
 - **Dr. Mark Frampton, University of Rochester Medical Center (NY)**
 - Professor Emeritus in Medicine in the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division.

Decision Memo - Subject

Printed on MM/DD/YYYY

- Expertise and experience in respiratory medicine, inhalation toxicology, health effects of air pollution and air criteria pollutants.
 - Former Chartered CASAC member (2018-2021).
- Member of the National Academies (National Academy of Medicine):
 - **Dr. Michelle Bell, Yale University (CT)**
 - Mary E. Pinchot Professor of Environmental Health at the Yale University School of the Environment.
 - Expertise and experience in epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental engineering, health effects of air pollution and air criteria pollutants, health impacts of climate change, and environmental justice.
 - Would bring gender diversity.
- Representative of State Air Pollution Control Agencies:
 - **Dr. James Boylan, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA)**
 - Manager of the Planning & Support Program in the Air Protection Branch of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.
 - Expertise and experience in air quality modeling and monitoring, particularly air criteria pollutants.
 - Former Chartered CASAC member (2017-2020; 2020-2021).

Appointment of CASAC Chair

- **Dr. Elizabeth A. (Lianne) Sheppard, University of Washington (WA)**
 - Professor in the Departments of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Biostatistics.
 - Expertise and experience in epidemiology, biostatistics, exposure assessment, and health effects of air pollution and air criteria pollutants.
 - Significant experience serving on and chairing SAB/CASAC panels.
 - Former Chartered CASAC member (2015-2018), her 2nd term was not renewed in 2018.
 - Would bring gender diversity.

Appointment of Other CASAC Members

- **Dr. Judith Chow, Desert Research Institute (NV)**
 - Nazir and Mary Ansari Chair in Science and Entrepreneurialism and Research Professor in the Division of Atmospheric Sciences.
 - Expertise and experience in air quality, air quality monitoring, environmental engineering, particularly air criteria pollutants.

Decision Memo - Subject

Printed on MM/DD/YYYY

- Former Chartered CASAC member (2015-2018) – 2nd term was not renewed in 2018.
- Would bring gender and ethnic diversity.
- **Dr. Christine H. Fuller, Georgia State University (GA)**
 - Associate Professor of Environmental Health.
 - Expertise and experience in epidemiology, exposure assessment, health disparities, and health effects of air pollution and air criteria pollutants.
 - Would bring gender and ethnic diversity as well as fresh perspectives (has never served on CASAC or CASAC panels).
- **Dr. Alexandra Ponette-González, University of North Texas (TX)**
 - Associate Professor of Geography and the Environment.
 - Expertise and experience in ecology and ecosystem effects of air criteria pollutants.
 - Would bring gender and ethnic diversity as well as fresh perspectives.

ALTERNATIVE APPROACH (Option 2)

An alternate approach would be to appoint a combination of candidates from Recommendation 1 and SABSO's recommendations for top potential alternates:

Statutory Requirements

- Physician:
 - **Dr. David Peden, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC)**
 - Expertise and experience in respiratory medicine, asthma, pediatrics, epidemiology, and health effects of air pollution and air criteria pollutants.
- Member of the National Academies (National Academy of Engineering):
 - **Dr. Charles T. Driscoll, Jr., Syracuse University (NY)**
 - Expertise and experience in environmental engineering and ecosystem effects of air pollution and air criteria pollutants.
- Representative of State Air Pollution Control Agencies:
 - **Dr. Jeffrey Underhill, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH)**
 - Expertise and experience in air quality modeling and monitoring, particularly air criteria pollutants.
 - Would bring fresh perspectives.

Federal Advisory Committee Membership Package Submitted for Approval

Committee: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)

Type of Committee: Special Government Employees (SGE)

Requested Signature: ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE

AAship: AO/SAB Thomas Brennan, Director, Science Advisory Board Staff
Office of the Administrator,
202-564-6953

Designated Federal Officer Info: Aaron Yeow, 202-564-2050

BACKGROUND

Attached for approval is the membership package for Office of the Administrator's (AO), Science Advisory Board Staff Office, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). CASAC was created to provide independent advice to the Administrator on the technical bases for EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards. CASAC also addresses research related to air quality, sources of air pollution, and the strategies to attain and maintain air quality standards and to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. CASAC is composed of seven members, with at least one member of the National Academy of Sciences, one physician and one person representing state air pollution control agencies.

In this membership package, AO/SAB is proposing to:

- Appoint six new members for a term effective August 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2024
- Appoint one member for a term effective August 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2023
- Say thank you to seven members for their valuable time and contributions

In this membership package, CASAC has three minorities, four non-minorities, five women and four men. CASAC also has members from six of the Agency's ten regions.

DETERMINATION

OGC [REDACTED]

FACMD confirms that CASAC is balanced with respect to the points of view represented for the functions to be performed by the committee. It is recommending that based on this assessment, the membership package be approved for signature.

Submitted by:

GINA
Gina Moore MOORE
Federal Advisory Committee Management Division (FACMD)
Office of Resources and Business Operations (ORBO)
Office of Mission Support (OMS)

Digitally signed by
GINA MOORE
Date: 2021.06.10
10:10:46 -04'00'

Robbie Young-Mackall, Acting Director
Federal Advisory Committee Management Division (FACMD)
Office of Resources and Business Operations (ORBO)
Office of Mission Support (OMS)

ROBERSEN
A YOUNG-
MACKALL
Digitally signed
by ROBERSENA
YOUNG-MACKALL
Date: 2021.06.10
10:46:56 -04'00'