

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

EPA BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC COUNSELORS

1. **Committee's Official Designation (Title):**

EPA Board of Scientific Counselors

2. **Authority:**

The EPA Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2. The BOSC is in the public interest and supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in performing its duties and responsibilities.

3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

The BOSC will provide advice and recommendations on all aspects (technical and management) of the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) research program. As appropriate, the BOSC will consult and coordinate its work with the Science Advisory Board.

The major objectives are to provide advice and recommendations on:

- a. ORD's research programs and research-management practices, and to recommend actions to improve research program quality, relevance, and performance, as well as program structure, scientific leadership, coordination/communication, and outcomes;
- b. ORD's program development, progress, and research program balance, which may include evaluation of multi-year plans and implementation of the ORD Strategic Plan;
- c. Use of peer review within ORD to sustain and enhance the quality of science in EPA;
- d. Scientific and management issues specific to ORD Offices, National Laboratories, and Centers; and
- e. ORD's human resources planning, such as scientist career development and rotational assignment programs, and the appropriate scope and design of training programs for environmental research professionals.

4. Description of Committees Duties:

The duties of the BOSC are solely to provide policy advice to EPA.

5. Official(s) to Whom the Committee Reports:

The BOSC will submit advice and recommendations and report to the EPA Administrator, through the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development, in consultation with the Administrator's Science Advisor.

6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support:

The EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of Research and Development.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of the BOSC is \$627,500 which includes 2.0 person-years of support.

8. Designated Federal Officer:

A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings of the advisory committee and subcommittees. Each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so, and will chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the committee reports.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

The BOSC expects to meet approximately two (2) to three (3) times a year. Meetings may occur approximately once every four (4) to six (6) months, or as needed and approved by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate.

As required by FACA, the BOSC will hold open meetings unless the EPA Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the committee as time permits, and file comments with the BOSC.

10. Duration and Termination:

The BOSC will be examined annually and will exist until the EPA determines the committee is no longer needed. This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After the initial two-year period, the charter may be renewed as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

11. Member Composition:

The BOSC will be composed of approximately twenty (20) members who will serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs). In selecting members, EPA will consider candidates from the environmental scientific/technical fields, human health care professionals, academia, industry, public and private research institutes or organizations, and other relevant interest areas.

12. Subgroups:

The EPA, or the BOSC with EPA approval, may form BOSC subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the chartered BOSC for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee nor can they report directly to the Agency.

13. Recordkeeping:

The records of the committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, will be handled in accordance with NARA General Records Schedule 26, Section 2 and EPA Records Schedule 181 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, these records will be available for public inspection and copying, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

May 6, 2014

Agency Approval Date

May 6, 2014

GSA Consultation Date

May 9, 2014

Date Filed with Congress