



*A Letter from
 the Acting Director,
 Office of Science Policy*

Welcome to the OSP Quarterly! I am pleased to announce the first edition of *ORD's Office of Science Policy Quarterly*. The Quarterly is intended to be a regular means of communication within and about OSP, designed to highlight the ongoing activities of the Office, and improve understanding of the work we do and the role we play within ORD and the Agency.

One of our primary areas of focus is leading the Administrator's initiative to ensure that science plays a more prominent role in EPA decision making. The Agency's goal is to develop and apply the best available science to address current and future environmental hazards, as well as new approaches toward improving environmental protection. ORD's research program advances the understanding of environmental processes and human health and ecological impacts, thus enhancing EPA's ability to respond to and solve environmental problems. To that end, OSP serves as ORD's primary point of contact for EPA Program Offices for both regulatory development support and research planning. We work closely with colleagues across EPA to fully understand their priorities and help align ORD's research program to meet their scientific needs.

As we strive to continually improve upon the support we provide to the Immediate Office of the Assistant Administrator for ORD; the ORD Labs, Centers, and Offices; and the EPA Regional and Program Offices, OSP has undergone significant change during this past year. Our organization

Letter continued on p. 2

ORD/Regional Science Workshops

On September 5-7, 2001, the **ORD/Regional Training Workshop on Emerging Issues Associated with Aquatic Environmental Pathogens** was held at Fort Meade, MD. This was the seventh in a series of Regional Science Workshops sponsored by OSP. The objectives of these workshops are to establish a better cross-Agency understanding of the science applicable to specific Region-selected human health and/or ecological topics, and to develop a network of EPA scientists who will continue to exchange information as the Agency moves forward in planning education, research, and risk management programs. The Emerging Pathogens Workshop included presentations of current work on methodology development, new data on a variety of pathogens of concern, new EPA regulations or rules that are in the process of revision, and new or improved approaches for risk assessment and risk management. The need for new and better methods as more pathogens are recognized was evident in the workshop discussions. For more information on the Emerging Pathogens Workshop, contact Dr. Ronald Landy at 410-305-2757.

The Regional/ORD Aquatic Life Criteria Workshop was held on December 4-7, 2001, in Seattle, WA. The workshop provided a highly effective forum for more than 90 representatives from ORD, 9 of the 10 Regional Offices, and the Office of Water as well as a few state and other federal agencies to exchange information and ideas on this important environmental issue. The workshop agenda focused on

toxic chemicals, habitat, sediments, nutrients, and biocriteria. Products of the workshop include the proceedings (expected in February 2002), and a matrix of known products and activities contributed by the participants that address the body of knowledge surrounding this topic. For more information on this workshop, please contact John Helvig at 913-551-7018.

The **Regional Science Liaison Training Workshop** was held October 24-27, 2001, in Washington, DC. It was attended by members of OSP's Regional Science Program, which links ORD's research program with EPA's 10 Regional Offices. The objectives of the workshop were to clarify participants' core roles and responsibilities, to increase familiarity with ORD Headquarter's offices, and to continue Regional Science Liaison (RSL) team building. Overviews of OSP, the National Center for Environmental Research (NCER), and the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) were followed by discussions on how to improve communication between ORD and the Regions. RSLs also addressed lessons learned to date from Regional Science Workshops, and how to more effectively plan and conduct future workshops. Also discussed was the transfer of ORD science to the Regions (what, how, and who), with a focus on evolving existing approaches for future program needs. Finally, the RSLs reviewed the progress of the RARE program and received training on the RARE Tracker Data Base.

ORD/Regional continued on p. 3

What's Inside

ORD/Regional Science Workshops	1
Annual ALD/ACD Workshop	2
SETAC Meeting	2
Strengthening the Basis of EPA Decision Making	3
Tribal Science Council "Kick-Off" Meeting	3
Futures Update	3
Staff Corner	4
Health and Safety	4
Who's New at OSP	4
Calendar of Events	Insert



Letter (Continued from p. 1)

has been restructured to include a variety of staff changes, new outreach efforts, and the overall coordination activities for the implementation of ORD's Strategic Plan.

OSP's communication and outreach strategy focuses on information sharing with our customers through enhanced Internet and Intranet Web sites, outreach documents and workshops, and customer feedback and evaluation.

Our effort to coordinate the ORD-wide implementation of the Strategic Plan ties in nicely to the communications and outreach effort. We are finding that several implementation activities are underway across all of ORD, and workgroups have been formed to ensure that the commit-

ments identified in the Plan are accomplished. As we approach the one year mark since the official release of the Strategy, we are assessing the progress thus far, and taking steps to ensure that implementation efforts are communicated and integrated as we move forward in this process. In fact, OSP is leading an offshoot of this effort through the development of a customer service plan, which is a thread that weaves through all five Strategic Goals. These ties are key in helping ORD to achieve its common goals.

In closing, we hope you will find the OSP Quarterly to be informative and useful and invite you to share your thoughts and ideas.

Debbie Dietrich

Annual ALD/ACD Workshop

The annual ORD Assistant Laboratory Directors/Assistant Center Directors (ALDs/ACDs) Workshop, was held October 17-18, 2001, in Herndon, VA. The workshop provided an opportunity for all ORD Research Coordination Team (RCT) members and the OSP Planning Staff to discuss a variety of research planning topics in preparation for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2004 (FY04) planning cycle. This year, discussions focused primarily on proposed changes to the FY04 planning process.

The first day of the ALD/ACD workshop included an update on ORD and Agency activities by Debbie Dietrich, Acting Director, OSP. She reported on the status of the Multi-Year Plans (MYPs), described the methods of incorporating the MYPs into the annual planning process, and identified potential changes to the budget and goal structure.

Henry Longest, Acting Assistant Administrator of ORD, kicked-off the discussions of the FY04 planning activities by defining the charge to the workshop participants. He emphasized the importance of com-

pleting the MYPs in a timely fashion, and the key role that the RCTs play in the planning process to produce products that are critical to EPA decision making.

After discussing the changes to the planning process, participants met in small groups to work through a prioritization exercise. This offered participants the opportunity to increase their familiarity with the FY04 planning process, identify strengths/weaknesses in the new process, and recommend potential changes to further improve the process.

On the second day, discussions focused on enhancing integration between and among MYPs, and methods to communicate the new planning process to Program and Regional Offices (as well as within ORD). Updates were presented on the Administrator's Regulatory Task Force (Connie Bosma) and the Science Inventory and Peer Review Process (Jeff Morris). The remainder of the workshop was devoted to a seminar on negotiation skills. Please contact Kathleen Thompson at 202-564-2678 for more information. ■

Annual Meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)

The annual SETAC meeting, held in Baltimore, MD, attracted more than 2,000 scientists concerned with ecological risk assessment, wildlife aquatic toxicology, and various environmental chemistry issues. Gov. Whitman's address at the meeting focused on building upon the Agency's long and productive partnership of working with scientific societies to solve environmental problems through science-based, multi-disciplinary approaches. She applauded the professional accomplishments of the many EPA scientists who contribute to the work of SETAC, and she praised their commitment to excellence. Gov. Whitman encouraged the many students in the audience studying environmental sciences to consider a career in federal service. She also discussed the significant role that EPA has played in assisting with the recovery from the September 11 attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. Gov. Whitman stressed that the credibility of EPA's decisions depends on the quality of the science, stating that "the quality of the science behind those decisions will largely determine how well environmental programs actually work—whether they will achieve our health and environmental goals." Of importance to ORD was Gov. Whitman's statement regarding her commitment to strengthen the quality, consistency, and comprehensiveness of the science and economics that support EPA's regulations.

There were more than 1,300 technical presentations at the SETAC meeting. Numerous EPA scientists presented papers and about one-third of the technical sessions were co-chaired by EPA staff. For more information on SETAC, please contact Randy Wentzel at 202-564-3214. ■



Strengthening the Basis of EPA Decision Making

OSP's Program Support Staff have been busier than usual providing scientific advice to Program Offices on various regulations and studies. This increased activity is a result of the Administrator's emphasis on strengthening the scientific basis of Agency decisions.

Last spring, the Administrator commissioned a Task Force to develop recommendations for strengthening the scientific and economic basis of decision making at EPA. Many of the recommendations that were submitted and adopted by the Administrator call for increased ORD involvement in developing regulations and significant nonregulatory activities. Some of the specific recommendations for increasing ORD's involvement are:

- ORD must actively participate in all Tier 1 and 2 actions, unless the actions do not involve science issues. ORD

must participate in workgroup meetings, review analytic blueprints, attend top management briefings and the final Agency review meetings, and submit comments and prepare concurrence/nonconcurrence memos for written materials.

- The criteria for determining if an action is Tier 1 or 2 have been expanded to include scientific considerations. Now, an action could be designated a Tier 1 or 2 if it involves a significant science issue.
- Program Offices have identified significant nonregulatory activities that would benefit by greater cross-Agency involvement, and OSP has reviewed these activities to determine those appropriate for ORD participation.
- ORD is participating in all Tier 3 actions that involve important science issues. ■

EPA Tribal Science Council "Kick-Off" Meeting

After more than 18 months of planning and development, EPA's Tribal Science Council (TSC) held its "Kickoff Meeting" at the Ak-Chin and Gila River Indian Communities December 11-13, 2001. Composed of senior Agency managers and tribal scientists from each Region, the TSC met to develop a better understanding of the cultural, political, and organizational issues and challenges of their respective groups, and to establish the basis for a successful partnership that identifies how EPA and tribes will work with one another and their constituents to address the tribes' science priorities. During the meeting, the TSC identified three high priority areas for the tribes—subsistence, quality assurance, and appropriate handling of sensitive/proprietary information.

The TSC provides an exciting new way for Agency and tribal representatives to work together to reach a mutual understanding and direction on scientific issues of importance in Indian Country. Importantly, the

TSC provides an avenue for the tribal priority science issues to be considered in the Agency's planning process.

Claudia Walters (OSP) is the Executive Secretary for the TSC and also serves as ORD's Senior Indian Program Manager. For more information, contact Claudia at 202-564-6762. ■

ORD/Regional Science Workshops (Continued from p. 1)

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants agreed that face-to-face meetings are a critical component for RSL team building.

Regional Visits. In December, Jeff Morris and David Klauder visited Regions 9 and 10 to discuss the ORD Regional Science Program with Regional managers and scientists. They plan to visit the other Regions in FY02 and FY03. For more information on the RSL workshop and the Regional visits, contact David Klauder at 202-564-6496. ■

OSP's Futures Update

OSP, in collaboration with the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, hosted a kick-off discussion to help implement Goal 5 of ORD's Strategic Plan, "Anticipate Future Environmental Issues." OSP is working to develop organizational capability within ORD for implementing future activities. Ted Gordon, founder of The Futures Group, gave an overview of futures methodologies and the results of a report he prepared in the 1970s, which anticipated such developments as biotechnology and nanotechnology.

OSP also is collaborating with Region 3 and ORD's National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) to enhance the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's ability to conduct long-term strategic planning through ecological forecasting. OSP is working with NCER to organize a conference on ecological "tipping points" (i.e., points at which small, long-term, cumulative effects might generate non-linear environmental crises). In addition, OSP is supporting a series of discussions on the environmental implications of genomic and proteomic technology. For more information on OSP's futures activities, please contact Pasky Pascual at 202-564-2259. ■

OSP Quarterly Contributing Writers

- Sarah Bauer
- Ron Cullember
- Dick Garnas
- Megan Grogard
- John Helvig
- Ruth Partridge
- Pasky Pascual
- Kathleen Thompson
- Claudia Walters
- Randy Wentzel
- Sam Williams

For more information on the OSP Quarterly contact Sarah Bauer at 202-564-3267 or bauer.sarah@epa.gov

OSP Health and Safety Activities After September 11, 2001

All-Hands Briefing. OSP conducted an All-Hands Briefing on September 20, 2001, to discuss the tragic events of September 11, and efforts underway to ensure the safety and security of OSP staff. A list of questions was compiled from the briefing, and submitted to the Office of Resources Management and Administration (ORMA) for appropriate response and/or clarification. The questions and answers were broadcast to all OSP staff members via e-mail and they are posted on the OSP Intranet site.

Copies of the handouts distributed at the briefing have been incorporated into the "Welcome Package" for new OSP employees. The OSP Continuity of Operation Plan Emergency Telephone Notification Tree has been updated, and copies have been provided to OSP Management, Staff Chiefs, and COOP members to replace both office and home copies of the Plan.

OSP Management, Staff Chiefs, and COOP members were provided a card that identifies the COOP Team Members and Staff Chiefs, and lists their office and home telephone numbers, cellular telephone numbers, and alternate e-mail addresses. The card also includes the telephone numbers of ORMA's COOP Team Members.

Power Failure (Grid Failure). On October 2, 2001, the Federal Triangle area suffered an electrical grid failure. ORMA has been working with Agency officials to address several issues that arose.

Fire Prevention Month Evacuation. EPA conducted a three-phase simulated evacuation of all Agency facilities situated in the Federal Triangle complex on October 30, 2001. The results of that event have been reported to Agency officials for action.

Contact Ron Cullumber at 202-564-6491 for more information on health and safety issues. ■

Welcome To Our New Folks

Megan Grogard joined OSP on September 16, after an assignment with the Office of Environmental Information's (OEI) Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT) Program. She managed a forum to promote networking and communication among the EMPACT Project Leads. Megan is responsible for coordinating the implementation of ORD's Strategic Plan.

Sarah Bauer moved to OSP on September 23, from ORD's National Risk Management Research Laboratory where she was a key member of the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program Team. She coordinated communication and outreach implementation for EPA's ETV Program. Sarah's current focus is on OSP's implementation of the ORD Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on our customer service, communication, and outreach efforts.

Lawrence Martin rejoined the OSP staff in October after a year-long hiatus. In his new role on the OSP Planning Staff, he will support the multi-media RCT, including leading the efforts to establish a homepage for the RCT.

Stiven Foster moved to OSP's Program Support Staff (10/22/01) from ORD's NCER, where his focus was peer review of grant applications. Stiven is a member of the Hazardous Waste Team and currently is focusing on Superfund issues.

Kathleen Meier came to OSP on December 2, 2001, from a recent assignment to the Office of Air's Natural Gas STAR Program where she was a program manager. She also brings with her experience from an earlier position with the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) where she focused on special review and re-registration of older pesticides. Kathleen is a member of the Program Support Staff/Pest-Tox Team and is focusing on endocrine disruptors issues. ■

Dennis Utterback joined the OSP Program Support Staff on December 2, from OPPTS, OPP, where he, too, was responsible for the re-registration of older pesticide chemicals, special review, and policy development (North American Free Trade Agreement import tolerance policy). His new tasks include regulatory and non-regulatory program support activities for the Pest-Tox Team.

Mimi Dannel moved to OSP on December 30, to become the Water Theme Planner for the OSP Planning Staff. She comes to us from the Office of Water's Office of Science and Technology where she worked on water quality issues including beaches and TMDLs. Mimi also has worked in the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, as well as EPA's Region 6 Office.

Greg Susanke joined OSP on December 30, as the Pesticides and Toxics Theme Planner for the OSP Planning Staff. He comes from OPPTS, where he focused on strategic planning. Greg's previous experience includes chairing the Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Initiative Workgroup, as well as involvement on the Mercury Action Plan.

Robert Holland came to OSP on November 26, from the Office of Water through the Senior Executive Employee (SEE) Program. Bob is part of the Administrative Team supporting the OSP staff members with the overall administrative workload.

Several new interns were added to the OSP staff, including: Kristin Duffy, who provided support to the OSP Planning Staff during the first quarter of FY 2002; Tia Rush, who returned to OSP during her winter break to provide support to the Administration and Special Projects Team; and Jacob Weddle, who also returned to OSP for his winter break to assist the Planning Staff/Cross Program Staff, and others as needed. ■

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
Jan 15, 2002	Socio-economics Meeting	Washington, DC	Lawrence Martin202-564-6497
Jan 29-30, 2002	Effective Risk Management of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals	Cincinnati, OH	Jackie McQueen.....202-564-6639 Andy Avel513-569-7951
Feb 7, 2002	Mercury in the Arctic Mercury Roundtable Teleconference (1-3 pm)	Ronald Reagan Bldg, Washington, DC	Carol Mahne513-569-7418 Sarah Gerould703-648-6895
Feb 12-13, 2002	Goal 1 Planning Meeting (within Multi-Year Plans)	Research Triangle Park, NC	Bob Fegley202-564-6786
Feb 12-13, 2002	Goal 2 Contingency Planning Meeting	Washington, DC	Molly Whitworth202-564-4086
Feb 14, 2002	Waste DAA Meeting	Washington, DC	Randy Wentzel202-564-3214
Feb 14, 2002	Air Strategic Review (1-3 pm)	Washington, DC	Bob Fegley202-564-6786
Feb 15, 2002	Waste Strategic Review	Waterside 363, OSWER Office	Randy Wentzel202-564-3214
Feb 20-22, 2002	Goal 8 RCT Face-to-Face Ranking Meeting	Washington, DC	Ed Washburn202-564-1134
Feb 21, 2002	Goal 6 Research Planning Meeting	Washington, DC	Bob Fegley202-564-6786
Feb 25-26, 2002	Goal 1 Planning Meeting (across multi-year plans)	Research Triangle Park, NC	Bob Fegley202-564-6786
Mar 7, 2002	Workshop on the Environmental Implications of Genomic-Related Research	Wilson Center	Pasky Pascual.....202-564-2259
Apr 22-24, 2002	PBT Monitoring Workshop	Research Triangle Park, NC	Tim Watkins.....919-541-5114 Stan Durkee202-564-6784
Apr 30, 2002 (tentative)	Research Coordination Council Meeting (to review FY04 planning)	Washington, DC	Paul Zielinski202-564-6772
May 2002	Drinking Water Progress Review	Research Triangle Park, NC	Molly Whitworth202-564-4086
May 1-2, 2002	EPA Science Forum 2002	Washington, DC	Larry Reiter919-541-2281 Mary McCarthy O'Reilly202-564-6487
May 7-9, 2002	2nd EMAP Symposium (in tandem with STAR Workshop 5/10/2002)	Kansas City, MO	EMAP: Michael McDonald919-541-7973 STAR: Barbara Levinson.....202-564-6911
June 4-7, 2002	National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management	Reno, NV	Claudia Walters202-564-6762
June 17-20, 2002	Region/ORD Science Topic Workshop on Critical Ecosystems	Keystone Center, CO	Patti Tyler303-312-6081
June 24-27, 2002	6th Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference Meeting	Washington, DC	Barbara Karn202-564-6824
June 25-27, 2002	Region/ORD Air Toxics Workshop	San Francisco, CA	Winona Victory415-972-3736
June/July 2002	Human Health Research Strategy Review by the SAB	Research Triangle Park, NC	Hugh Tilson919-541-4607
Dec 16-19, 2002	NEJAC Meeting on Pollution Prevention and Environmental Justice (meeting originally scheduled for 7/16-19/2002)	Baltimore, MD	Marva King202-564-2599 Brenda Washington.....202-564-6781
To be determined	ReVA Workshop	Research Triangle Park, NC	Betsy Smith919-541-0620
To be determined	ORD/Regional Science Topic Workshop on Cumulative Risk	To be determined	Michael Callahan214-665-2787

Word Find



Biocriteria
 Ecology
 Endocrine Disruptors
 Environmental Justice
 Futures
 Genomics
 GPRA
 Habitat
 Human Health
 Multi Year Plan
 NEJAC
 ORD
 OSP
 Pathogens
 Peer Review

Pesticides
 Policy
 Proteomics
 RARE
 Regional Science Liaisons
 Risk Characterization
 Science Policy Council
 Sediments
 Senior Leadership Council
 SETAC
 Sound Science
 Strategic Planning
 Toxic Chemicals
 Tribal Science Council
 World Wide Web

