UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Local Government Advisory Committee

2. **Authority:**

This charter renews the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App.2 § 9 (c). The LGAC is in the public interest and supports EPA in performing its duties and responsibilities under miscellaneous statutes.

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

Federal environmental statutes provide for the delegation of programs to State and local governments. As co-regulators like the States, local governments are ultimately responsible for the implementation of many public health and environmental programs that ensure that citizens have clean air and water, safe drinking water, and environmentally sound waste disposal. To ensure that the Agency's regulations, policies, guidance, and technical assistance actually improve the capacity of local governments to carry-out these programs, the LGAC, and its Small Community Advisory Subcommittee, provide advice and recommendations to EPA on:

a. Changes needed to allow flexibility and innovation and to accommodate local needs without compromising environmental performance, accountability, or fairness

b. Exploring ways to improve performance measurement and speed dissemination of new environmental protection techniques and technologies among local governments

c. Improvements to program management, and the regulatory planning and development processes to involve local governments more effectively as partners in environmental management

d. Ways in which EPA and states can help local governments strengthen their capacity to promote environmental quality, including public access, community right-to-know, and performance measurement

e. Projects to help local governments deal with the challenge of financing environmental protection infrastructure

f. EPA's policies, procedures, and practices regarding local government (development, implementation, and evaluation)

4. Description of Committees Duties:

The duties of the LGAC are solely advisory in nature.

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

The LGAC will submit advice and recommendations and report to the EPA Administrator, through the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations.

6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support:

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

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of the LGAC is $410,429 which includes 2.7 work-years of support.

8. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

The committee expects to meet approximately three (3) times a year. Meetings may occur approximately once every four (4) 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. A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the (DFO). The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings and 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 in the public interest to do so. As required by FACA, LGAC 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 subsection c of Section 552(b) of Title 5, United States Code. Interested persons are permitted to attend meetings, appear before the committee as time permits, or file comments with the LGAC.

9. **Duration and Termination:**

LGAC will be examined annually and will exist until the EPA Deputy Administrator 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. (5 U.S.C. App.2 § 14).

10. **Member Composition:**

The LGAC will be composed of approximately thirty (30) members. Most members, with the exception of members who are Federal officials, will serve as representatives of non-Federal interests. Members will be selected from among, but are not limited to: local government officials, state government officials; and, public and environmental interest groups.

11. **Subgroups:**

EPA, or the LGAC with EPA's approval, may form 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 LGAC 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.

DEC 21 2001

Agency Approval Date

DEC 26 2001

GSA Consultation Date

JAN 11 2002

Date Filed with Congress