



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

AUG 26 2011

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Deborah L. Swackhamer, Ph.D.
Chairwoman
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Swackhamer:

Thank you for submitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board's report, *Efficacy of Ballast Water Treatment Systems: A Report by the EPA Science Advisory Board*. As you discussed in your letter, the EPA is currently developing its next vessel general permit, which, among other things, regulates the discharges of ballast water into waters of the United States. As part of developing ballast water limits for this permit, the EPA's Office of Water is conducting an analysis to identify the best available technologies for treating ballast water discharges, and the board's report will prove to be a valuable resource.

In particular, I am grateful for the considerable effort involved in reviewing dozens of data sets and documents to evaluate the efficacy of existing shipboard ballast-water-treatment systems. Your work and comments on the EPA's recently released environmental technology verification ballast-water protocol are useful and will serve to improve and add credibility to that protocol. The detailed discussion on the statistics of sampling also helps us better understand limitations of existing monitoring methodologies and provides a framework to improve them.

I also appreciate your suggestion to adopt a risk-based approach to minimize the impacts of invasive species in vessel ballast-water discharges. As you may be aware, the current vessel general permit contains several requirements, which follow your exact recommendations; please see Parts 2.2.3.3 and 2.2.3.4 of the vessel general permit. Based on your suggestions, the EPA will continue to explore ways of strengthening these requirements to reduce risk as we work to improve the vessel-permitting program.

Please know that your report will play a key role in both short-term and long-term policy development at the EPA and other federal agencies as appropriate.

It is my understanding that Science Advisory Board panel members invested a great deal more time on this project than many had anticipated. I assure you that we at the EPA truly value your hard work, and I again offer my thanks to you, your colleagues and the board's staff for your dedication to completing the report under challenging circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa P. Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa P. Jackson



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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THE ADMINISTRATOR

Judith L. Meyer, Ph.D.
Chairwoman
Ballast Water Advisory Panel
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Meyer:

Thank you for submitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board's report, *Efficacy of Ballast Water Treatment Systems: A Report by the EPA Science Advisory Board*. As you discussed in your letter, the EPA is currently developing its next vessel general permit, which, among other things, regulates the discharges of ballast water into waters of the United States. As part of developing ballast water limits for this permit, the EPA's Office of Water is conducting an analysis to identify the best available technologies for treating ballast water discharges, and the board's report will prove to be a valuable resource.

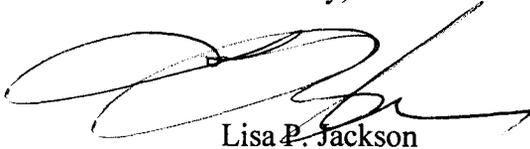
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Lisa P. Jackson