

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.

4. **Description of Duties:**

The duties of the BOSC are to provide advice and recommendations on:

- a. ORD's research programs and research management practices and actions to improve research program quality, relevance, and performance, as well as program structure, scientific leadership, research coordination, communication, and outcomes;
- b. ORD's program development, progress, and research program balance, which may include evaluation of ORD's Strategic Research Action Plans;
- 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.

5. Agency or Official 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.

6. 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 Staff Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of the BOSC is \$627,500, which includes 2.0 staff 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 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:

Continuing.

11. Termination:

This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After this two-year period, the charter may be renewed as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

12. Membership and Designation:

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

13. Subcommittees:

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.

14. 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 6.2 and EPA Records Schedule 1024 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.

April 3, 2018
Agency Approval Date

April 12, 2018
GSA Consultation Date

May 9, 2018
Date Filed with Congress