

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

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## Human Studies Review Board

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**1. Advisory Committee's Official Designation:**

Human Studies Review Board

**2. Authority:**

This charter renews the Human Studies Review Board (HSRB) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. 10. This Committee was established January 20, 2006, under the authority of the "Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006", Public Law 109-54 and 40 CFR 26.1605.

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

The HSRB is a statutory FAC to provide advice, information, and recommendations on issues related to scientific and ethical aspects of proposed or completed human research submitted by EPA, including research involving intentional exposure of human subjects to any substance to be considered by EPA in connection with an action under FIFRA (7 U.S.C. 136–136y) or section 408 of FFDCA (21 U.S.C. 346a), and research involving intentional exposure of human subjects to pesticides to be considered by EPA in connection with an action under any statute or regulation administered by EPA.

**4. Description of Duties:**

The duties of the HSRB are solely to provide scientific or policy advice to EPA on:

- a. Research Proposals and Protocols;
- b. Reports of completed research on human subjects; and
- c. How to strengthen EPA's programs for protection of human subjects of research.

**5. Agency or Federal Officer Receiving the Advisory Committee's Advice/Recommendations:**

The HSRB will report to the EPA Administrator through the EPA Human Subjects Research Review Official (HSRRO).

**6. Support:**

Support will be provided by the Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions, Office of the Administrator.

**7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years:**

The estimated annual costs to operate the HSRB Committee include the following:

- a. Federal personnel (based on full-time equivalent (FTE) usage basis) and other Federal internal costs. The estimated annual person year of staff support required is 0.3, at an estimated annual cost of \$70,000. The estimate for other Federal internal costs is \$60,500.
- b. Proposed payments to members and number of members. The estimated payments for 15 non-Federal members are \$59,500.
- c. No reimbursable costs.

**8. Designated Federal Officer (DFO):**

The Administrator must designate a federal officer or employee who must be either full-time or permanent part-time, to be the DFO for each advisory committee and its subcommittees, and the DFO must:

- a. Ensure their advisory committee activities comply with the Act, FACA Final Rule, their agency administrative procedures, and any other applicable laws and regulations;
- b. Approve or call all meetings of the advisory committee or subcommittee;
- c. Approve the agenda, except that this requirement does not apply to a Presidential advisory committee;
- d. Attend all advisory committee and subcommittee meetings for their duration;
- e. Fulfill the requirements under § 10(b) of the Act (codified at 5 U.S.C. 1009(b));
- f. Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines it to be in the public interest;
- g. Chair any meeting when so directed by the agency head
- h. Maintain information on advisory committee activities and provide such information to the public, as applicable; and
- i. Ensure advisory committee members and subcommittee members, as applicable, receive the appropriate training ( *e.g.*, FACA overview, ethics training) for efficient operation and compliance with the Act and FACA Final Rule.

**9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

The Committee expects to meet up to four (4) times a year. Meetings may occur approximately once every three (3) months or as needed and approved by the DFO and are expected to occur by teleconference. As required by FACA, HSRB 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 Board as time permits, and file comments with the HSRB.

**10. Duration:**

The duration of HSRB is continuing, subject to the Termination section below.

**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 HSRB will be composed of approximately fourteen (14) members who will serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) or Regular Government Employees (RGEs), who are not EPA employees per 40 CFR 26.1605. The EPA will consider candidates from the environmental scientific/technical fields, human health care professionals, academia, industry, public and private research institutes or organizations, other governmental agencies, and other relevant interest areas. The HSRB membership will include experts in relevant scientific or technical disciplines such as bioethics, biostatistics, human health risk assessment and human toxicology.

**13. Subcommittees:**

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

**15. Filing Date:**

2/12/2026  
Agency Approval Date

2/11/2026

GSA Consultation Completion Date

03/03/2026

Date Filed with Congress