

EPA Particulate Matter Research Centers Program

SAB Advisory Panel Meeting

October 1-2, 2008

Charge to the SAB PM Research Centers Program Advisory Panel

The Agency seeks advice from the SAB regarding the effectiveness of the current Particulate Matter Research Centers Program and suggestions for an improved future Centers Program, and requests that the Panel focus on the following charge questions during its review of the PM Research Centers Program:

Overall Charge Question

In the context of the current state-of-the-science and the priorities for the EPA Air research program, ORD seeks advice on the possible structures and strategic direction of an Air Research Centers program for 2010 – 2015.

Specific Charge Questions

- 1. How well have the PM Centers continued to contribute to advancing research on key PM issues most relevant to EPA's mission?**
- 2. What advice does the panel have on how to move to multi-pollutant approach in the PM Centers program?**

One prominent theme of EPA's multi-year research plan for Air is the need to better understand air pollution effects within the context of the entire ambient mixture. What advice does the panel have regarding the appropriate balance between single-pollutant and multi-pollutant research? What additional broad strategic directions should EPA consider for a future Centers Research Program?

- 3. What strengths and weaknesses does the panel see in different structural options for a future Centers Research Program?**

Given the strategic directions discussed above, please comment on various approaches EPA could consider for the *structure* of a future air pollution Centers program. For example, a future Centers program might continue with a common theme for all Centers, or might seek Centers that specialize in different research areas. In addition, some Centers might address a broad research portfolio while others have a more targeted focus. EPA may consider funding fewer Centers in order to maintain appropriate program balance with the individual STAR grants and intramural research programs. EPA is seeking the panel's views on the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches for the structure of the program.