



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN - 3 2023

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Elizabeth A. Sheppard, Ph.D.
Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
William Jefferson Clinton Building
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Sheppard:

I would like to thank you for your November 22, 2022, letter conveying the comments and advice of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and the CASAC Ozone Review Panel following its evaluation of the scientific issues in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants (Final Report - April 2020)." I appreciate the panel's thorough examination of the science to inform its future review of the draft policy assessment, and I anticipate the letter's thoughtful recommendations will be helpful as we move forward with the reconsideration.

I take note of the CASAC's consensus conclusion that "the existing scientific evidence summarized in the 2020 ISA provides a scientifically sound foundation for the agency's reconsideration of the 2020 Ozone NAAQS decision." This conclusion supports the agency's reliance on the 2020 ISA as the scientific foundation for the PA and for the EPA's decisions in this reconsideration. The letter additionally conveys several more specific comments, including the ISA's approaches to weighing the scientific evidence and on the causality determinations that result from applying those approaches. Consistent with the CASAC's statements that it is not recommending reopening and revising the 2020 ISA, the EPA appreciates and intends to consider the specific advice received in this report in future NAAQS reviews.

As you are aware, the next step in the agency's reconsideration of the 2020 Ozone NAAQS decision is the CASAC's review of a draft PA. Considering the panel's comments related to the PA, colleagues in the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards are developing a revised draft PA for review by the panel at a future public meeting.

Should you have any questions regarding the process or the next steps, you are very welcome to contact Erika Sasser at sasser.erika@epa.gov and (919) 541-3889 or Steven Dutton at dutton.steven@epa.gov and (919) 541-5035.

Please accept my gratitude for the thoughtful advice the panel has provided in this reconsideration of the ozone NAAQS. I look forward to the panel's review of the revised draft PA and send you my warmest wishes in the meantime.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Regan".
Michael S. Regan