

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SECRETARIES' SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD CHARTER

The scope of the Science Advisory Board is being expanded to assist the two departments in achieving and maintaining clean air, water and land, as these are critical to the quality of life for all North Carolinians. A clean environment is necessary to protect the public health as well as to promote a vibrant economy.

Preamble

Whereas, effective control of the exposure to contaminants in soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment and air is essential to ensure adequate protection of human health and the environment; and

Whereas, numerous chemicals deemed to be toxic are released into the environment; and

Whereas, ongoing and future toxicological studies might demonstrate the need for a change in the necessary level of control for some contaminants; and

Whereas, additional toxic contaminants may be introduced into the environment or discovered to be released;

Now, Therefore, it is necessary to create a standing science advisory board to study the toxicological effects of contaminants and to advise the Environmental Management Commission (herein referred to as "EMC") as to the necessary level of control of those contaminants for protection of human health and the environment.

Section I. Establishment

We hereby establish the Secretaries' Science Advisory Board (herein referred to as the "Board") within the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (herein referred to as "DEQ") and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (herein referred to as "DHHS"). The Board shall be composed of eleven voting members appointed by the DEQ and DHHS Secretaries (herein referred to as the "Secretaries"). Members will serve at the pleasure of the Secretaries and may be re-appointed by the Secretaries. The Secretaries shall designate one member as Chair. The members appointed by the Secretaries will represent academic institutions, the public and private sectors, and independent research facilities. The eleven members of the Board shall include at least two doctoral level toxicologists, one doctoral level epidemiologist, and one board-certified physician. Board membership will be subject to the following, additional specifications:

- (1) A minimum of one doctoral level epidemiologist, preferably a DVM/PhD, public health scientist, or environmental scientist with strong background in environmental epidemiology.
- (2) A minimum of one doctoral level toxicologist, public health scientist, or environmental scientist in the private sector who has at least five years of experience in risk assessment or

species impact.

- (3) The State Epidemiologist or the State Health Director within DHHS.
- (4) At least one doctoral level toxicologist or epidemiologist who is employed by either state or federal government and has at least five years of experience in risk assessment.
- (5) A minimum of one doctoral level scientist having a minimum of five years of experience in exposure assessment to air contaminants.
- (6) A minimum of one doctoral level scientist having a minimum of five years of experience in exposure assessment to water contaminants.
- (7) A minimum of one licensed medical doctor, preferably with board certification in occupational or environmental medicine.
- (8) A representative from the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors that serves as a health director with relevant experience in environmental health/epidemiology.

Section II. Functions

- (1) The Board shall meet at least six times per year and as called by the Secretaries or by the Board Chair.
- (2) The Board shall have the following duties related to DEQ and DHHS:
 - (a) To perform or recommend reviews and/or evaluations of matters concerning the release of contaminants into the environment that are placed on the Board agenda by DEQ or DHHS.
 - (b) To advise EMC on information concerning the regulation and evaluation of releases of contaminants that come to the attention of the Board.
 - (c) To review the effects of chemicals that are proposed to be regulated by DEQ as contaminants and to recommend the necessity and/or urgency for controlling the releases of such chemicals that are found to cause deleterious environmental and human health effects with priority given to the study of contaminants for which control has been deferred pending further study.
 - (d) To act as consultants regarding DEQ's determinations to regulate releases of contaminants and in determining factors for establishing acceptable levels for contaminants and for remediation levels for contaminants in other media.
 - (e) To recommend concentrations of contaminants in a "range of risks" to DEQ and EMC for regulation that will minimize adverse health responses in the exposed citizenry and to advise the EMC of the scientific basis for these recommendations.

In making those recommendations, the Board shall consider:

- (i) Whether factors have been appropriately applied in a media specific concentration recommendation for a specific chemical.
- (ii) Whether chemical agents that have adverse reproductive and/or developmental effects should be treated with risk assessment values.
- (iii) Whether synergistic health effects of mixtures of contaminants should be considered.
- (iv) Whether and how concentrations of contaminants should be adjusted when there are multiple sources of the same contaminant in a localized area.
- (v) How uncertainties in the risk assessment process can be incorporated into development and/or revision of concentrations of contaminants.
- (f) To assist the Secretaries in providing expertise to evaluate the human and environmental impact of exposure to hazardous contaminants as part of a task force that may be formed to investigate the multimedia (air, water, and soil) impacts of those contaminants.
- (g) To consider the establishment of concentrations for contaminants to be recommended for the establishment of standards in cases where well-designed human studies and/or data regarding mechanisms of action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics or species' differences appear not to have been taken into account.
- (h) To provide input to DHHS as the agency establishes health goals.
- (i) To assist DEQ and DHHS in identifying contaminants of emerging concern and assist in determining whether the contaminants warrant further evaluation.


Section III. Administration

- (1) In support of the Board, DEQ's Assistant Secretary for Environment and DHHS' Deputy Secretary for Health Services will jointly provide oversight and direction to the Board and will serve as the Liaisons of the Board. Technical support will be provided by members of the Division of Air Quality, the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Waste Management within DEQ and by members of the staff of the Division of Public Health within DHHS. Communications between the two Departments and the Board shall be through the Liaisons.
- (2) Members of the Board will be reimbursed for necessary travel and subsistence expenses as authorized by North Carolina General Statute Section 138-5, and those expenses will be equitably distributed to both DHHS and DEQ.


Section IV. Implementation and Duration

(1) The Science Advisory Board shall be effective immediately.

(2) This Board shall continue for an indefinite period at the pleasure of the Secretaries.



Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH Date
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services



Michael S. Regan Date
Secretary
Department of Environmental Quality