

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 was established on February 23, 1996, and is renewed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. 10. 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 is categorized as a scientific/technical advisory committee. The BOSC will provide advice and recommendations on all aspects of the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) research programs. 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 program structure, scientific leadership, research coordination, communication, and outcomes.
- b. ORD's strategies and approaches to sustain and enhance the quality, timeliness, relevance, responsiveness, and accessibility of science at EPA.
- c. ORD's program development, progress, and research program balance, which includes evaluation of ORD's Research Programs; and
- d. ORD's human resources planning, which may include 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 will 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. EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of the BOSC is \$373,000 which includes 0.7 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 an alternate 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.

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 members. Members will serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) or Regular Government Employees (RGEs) and provide independent advice and recommendations. The review of ORD’s research programs will require that the BOSC possess a diverse range of environmental expertise in the fields of science and technology. In selecting members, EPA will consider candidates from academia, industry, government (federal, state, local, and tribal), environmental and human health care professions, public and private research institutes and organizations, and other relevant interest areas. In accordance with Executive Order 14035 (June 25, 2021) and consistent with law, EPA values and welcomes opportunities to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility on its federal advisory committees. EPA’s federal advisory committees have a workforce that reflects the diversity of the American people.

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 schedules. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, these records are subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, and will be available for public inspection and copying.

15. Filing Date:

February 7, 2024
Agency Approval Date

February 2, 2024
GSA Consultation Completion Date

March 8, 2024
Date Filed with Congress