

Environmental Protection Agency
Annual Peer Review Report
Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011)

Purpose

This annual report is a requirement under the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review. The report provides information for peer reviews that EPA conducted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 that were subject to reporting under the Bulletin. This report contains up-to-date information as of the date of the report.

Background

On December 16, 2004, OMB issued its Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review. This Bulletin asks all federal agencies to submit an annual report to OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs providing information on peer reviews that were subject to the Bulletin and conducted during the previous fiscal year. The Bulletin establishes minimum peer review provisions for all non-exempt "influential scientific information" and "highly influential scientific assessments." The Bulletin defines "influential scientific information" as "scientific information the agency reasonably can determine will have or does have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or private sector decisions." A scientific assessment is an evaluation of a body of scientific or technical knowledge that typically synthesizes multiple factual inputs, data, models, assumptions, and/or applies best professional judgment to bridge uncertainties in the available information. The Bulletin considers a "scientific assessment" to be "highly influential" if the agency or OMB determines that the dissemination could have a potential impact of more than \$500 million in any one year on either the public or private sector, or that the dissemination is novel, controversial, precedent-setting, or has significant interagency interest.

For the purposes of this report, a peer review was considered completed if the reviewers' final comments were received during FY11, regardless of whether the Agency has completed the response to the comments or incorporated revisions based on the comments into the final product. This report includes the peer reviews identified by the EPA offices as having met the Bulletin's definitions for "influential scientific information" and "highly influential scientific assessments".

More information on the Bulletin can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2005/m05-03.pdf> and in the EPA's *Peer Review Handbook, 3rd Edition* at <http://www.epa.gov/peerreview/>.

I. Summary Page for Department (if Applicable) (Section I is not applicable.)

II. Agency Report

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agency U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Agency Contact for Implementation of the Peer Review Bulletin

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URL for Agency's Peer Review Agenda http://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_pr_agenda.cfm

What pathway(s) can a member of the public use to find the Agency's peer review agenda if she/he did not have this URL?

- Link from Departmental or Agency home page – Link to Peer Review home page (<http://www.epa.gov/peerreview/>), which then links to Peer Review Agenda
- Link from Information Quality home page – Yes
<http://www.epa.gov/quality/informationguidelines/index.html>
- Link from science, research, or regulatory pages – Yes
 - Science Inventory Home Page <http://cfpub.epa.gov/si/>
- Other (please describe) _____

Does the agenda provide links to peer review reports for all completed peer reviews?

Yes

INFORMATION ABOUT REVIEWS CONDUCTED

Number of peer reviews conducted subject to the Bulletin in FY 11.

Number of influential scientific information peer reviews (ISI) (not including highly influential scientific assessments): 31

List the title of each ISI. Indicate whether the Peer Review Report has been completed (Y/N) *add more lines as needed*

| Office | Title | PR Report Completed |
|-----------|---|---------------------|
| OAR/OTAQ | Computer Simulation of Light-Duty Vehicle Technologies for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction in the 2020-2025 Timeframe | Yes |
| OAR/OTAQ | Heavy-Duty Greenhouse Gas Emissions Model (GEM) | Yes |
| OAR/OTAQ | Vehicle Mass Reduction Study | No |
| OAR/OAQPS | The Black Carbon Report to Congress | Yes |
| OP/NCEE | America's Children and the Environment - Third Edition | No |
| ORD/NCEA | A Field-Based Aquatic Life Benchmark for Conductivity in Central Appalachian Streams | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | A Method to Assess Climate-Relevant Decisions: Application in the Chesapeake Bay | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | An Assessment of Decision-Making Processes: Evaluation of Where Land Protection Planning Can Incorporate Climate Change Information | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Aquatic Ecosystems, Water Quality, and Global Change: Challenges of Conducting Multi-Stressor Vulnerability Assessments | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments: Four Case Studies of Water Utility Practices | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Exposure Factors Handbook: 2011 Edition (Final Report) | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Implications of Climate Change for Bioassessment Programs and Approaches To Account for Effects | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of 1,4-Dioxane (Inhalation) | No |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Acrylonitrile | No |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Biphenyl | No |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Dichloromethane (Methylene Chloride) | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Hexachloroethane (HCE) | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Methanol (Non-Cancer) | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of n-Butanol | No |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) Mixtures | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Trichloroacetic Acid (TCA) | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Urea | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Vanadium Pentoxide | No |
| ORD/NCEA | Lymphohematopoietic Cancers Induced by Chemicals and Other Agents: Overview and Implications for Risk Assessment | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Nanomaterial Case Studies: Nanoscale Titanium Dioxide in Water Treatment and in Topical Sunscreen | Yes |

| Office | Title | PR Report Completed |
|------------|---|---------------------|
| ORD/NCEA | Nanomaterial Case Studies: Nanomaterial Case Study: Nanoscale Silver in Disinfectant Spray | No |
| ORD/NCEA | Problem Formulation for Human Health Risk Assessments of Pathogens in Land-Applied Biosolids | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | The Effects of Mountaintop Mines and Valley Fills on Aquatic Ecosystems of the Central Appalachian Coalfields | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Vulnerability Assessments in Support of the Climate Ready Estuaries Program: A Novel Approach Using Expert Judgment: Volumes I & II | Yes |
| ORD/NHEERL | Procedures for the Derivation of Site-Specific Equilibrium Partitioning Sediment Benchmarks (ESBs) for the Protection of Benthic Organisms: Nonionic Organics | No |
| ORD/OSA | Microbial Risk Assessment Guideline: Pathogenic Microorganisms With Focus on Food and in Water | No |

Number of highly influential scientific assessments (HISA): 14

List the title of each HISA. Indicate whether the Peer Review Report has been Completed (Y/N) *add more lines as needed*

| Office | Title | PR Report Completed |
|------------|---|---------------------|
| OAR/OAQPS | Nitrogen oxides/sulfur oxides (NOx/SOx) Secondary NAAQS Policy Assessment (NOx/SOx PA) | Yes |
| OAR/OAQPS | Technical Support Document: National-Scale Mercury Risk Assessment Supporting The Appropriate And Necessary Finding For Coal- And Oil-Fired Electric Generating Units - Draft | Yes |
| OAR/ORIA | Review Of Draft Revised Blue Book On Estimating Cancer Risks From Exposure To Ionizing Radiation | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Biofuels and the Environment: The First Triennial Report to Congress | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Dioxin Assessment | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Integrated Science Assessment for Lead (First External Review Draft) | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants (First External Review Draft) | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants (Second External Draft) | No |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Formaldehyde | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Hexavalent Chromium | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Inorganic Arsenic Report (Cancer) | Yes |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Libby Amphibole Asbestos | No |
| ORD/NCEA | IRIS Toxicological Review of Trichloroethylene (TCE) | Yes |
| ORD/NHEERL | National Coastal Condition Report IV | No |

Provide the titles of ISIs and HISAs for which Waivers (W), Deferrals (D), or Exemptions (E) were invoked or Alternative Procedures used (A). *If deferral is marked, please indicate the duration of the deferral.*

No waivers, deferrals, or exemptions were invoked.

Number of peer reviews that included at least one peer reviewer appointed pursuant to any exception to the applicable independence or conflict of interest standards of the Bulletin, including determinations by the Secretary or Deputy Secretary pursuant to Section III (3) (c)? 0

Number of peer review panels that held public meetings:

Number of ISIs (not including highly influential scientific assessments): 19

Number of HISAs: 14

Number of peer review panels that allowed public comment:

Number of ISIs (not including highly influential scientific assessments): 19

Number of HISAs: 14

Number of public comments provided on the agency's peer review plans during FY 11, regardless of whether the peer review was actually completed during FY 11: 0

Number of times agency specifically solicited peer reviewer nominations from professional societies 17*

If such nominations were solicited, were any recommendations provided?

3 reviewers were recommended by professional societies

*Nominations were solicited from the public, including professional societies.