



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-11963-01-OA]

Request for Nominations for the Science Advisory Board Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts (MDBP) Revisions Review Panel

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office requests public nominations of scientific experts to form a Panel to review the draft analyses to support EPA's revisions of the Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts (MDBP) National Primary Drinking Water rules. EPA is currently conducting analyses to evaluate eight (i.e., chlorite, Cryptosporidium, haloacetic acids, heterotrophic bacteria, Giardia lamblia, Legionella, total trihalomethanes, and viruses) National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) for potential regulatory revisions with a consideration of risk tradeoffs across microbial control versus disinfection byproduct formation. EPA is exploring approaches to determine how public water systems (PWSs) can achieve enhanced precursor removal to reduce disinfection byproduct (DBP) formation in drinking water. EPA's analysis summarizes the current literature on DBP precursor occurrence and treatment, identifies technology based on effectiveness and feasibility, and determines the unit cost of technologies for enhanced removal. EPA is also preparing analyses to support a numerical disinfectant residual requirement within the drinking water distribution system. This analysis will include an inventory on vulnerable PWSs, feasibility studies for maintaining a numerical disinfectant residual, and methods for assessing effectiveness of a numerical residual in controlling microbial growth in the distribution system including for opportunistic pathogens such as Legionella. The SAB MDBP Revisions Review Panel will consider

whether the conclusions found in the EPA's analyses are clearly presented and scientifically supported. The Panel will also be asked to provide recommendations on how the analyses may be strengthened.

DATES: Nominations should be submitted by **[INSERT DATE 21 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** per the instructions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Notice and Request for Nominations may contact Carolyn Kilgore, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), EPA Science Advisory Board via telephone/voice mail (202) 564-0230, or email at kilgore.carolyn@epa.gov. General information concerning the EPA SAB can be found at the EPA SAB website at <https://sab.epa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The SAB (42 U.S.C. 4365) is a chartered Federal Advisory Committee that provides independent scientific and technical peer review, advice, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical basis for EPA actions. As a Federal advisory committee, the SAB conducts business in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. app. 2) and related regulations. The SAB Staff Office is forming an expert panel, the SAB MDBP Revisions Review Panel, under the auspices of the Chartered SAB. The SAB MDBP Revisions Review Panel will provide advice through the chartered SAB. The SAB and the SAB MDBP Revisions Review Panel will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies. The SAB MDBP Revisions Review Panel will conduct a review of analyses on two specific topics under consideration for potential regulatory revisions. EPA is exploring approaches to determine how PWSs can achieve enhanced precursor removal to reduce DBP formation in drinking water. EPA's analysis

summarizes the current literature on DBP precursor occurrence and treatment, identifies technology based on effectiveness and feasibility, and determines the unit cost of technologies for enhanced removal. EPA is also preparing analyses to support a numerical disinfectant residual requirement within the drinking water distribution system. This analysis will include an inventory on vulnerable PWSs, feasibility studies for maintaining a numerical disinfectant residual, and methods for assessing effectiveness of a numerical residual in controlling microbial growth in the distribution system including for opportunistic pathogens such as Legionella. The SAB MDBP Revisions Review Panel will consider whether the conclusions found in the EPA's draft analyses are clearly presented and scientifically supported. The Panel will also be asked to provide recommendations on how the analyses may be strengthened.

Request for Nominations: The SAB Staff Office is seeking nominations of nationally and internationally recognized scientists with demonstrated expertise in the following disciplines: *Environmental Engineering, specifically: design, operation, and maintenance of distribution systems used by public drinking water systems (PWS); Environmental Science; Drinking water treatment; Disinfection byproduct formation and control; Microbiology; Public Health; Water quality; Water reuse; Toxicology; Risk assessment; Environmental economics; Environmental health science.*

Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations: Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals in the areas of expertise described above for possible service on the SAB Panel. Individuals may self-nominate. Nominations should be submitted in electronic format (preferred) using the online nomination form on the SAB website at <https://sab.epa.gov> (see the "Public Input on Membership" list under "Committees, Panels, and Membership"). To be considered, nominations should include the information requested below. EPA values and welcomes diversity. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply regardless of sex, race, disability, or ethnicity.

Nominations should be submitted in time to arrive no later than **[INSERT DATE 21**

CALENDAR DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

The following information should be provided on the nomination form: contact information for the person making the nomination; contact information for the nominee; and the disciplinary and specific areas of expertise of the nominee. Nominees will be contacted by the SAB Staff Office and will be asked to provide a recent curriculum vitae and a narrative biographical summary that includes current position, educational background; research activities; and recent service on other national advisory committees or national professional organizations. Persons having questions about the nomination procedures, or who are unable to submit nominations through the SAB website, should contact the DFO at the contact information noted above. The names and biosketches of qualified nominees identified by respondents to this Federal Register notice, and additional experts identified by the SAB Staff Office, will be posted in a List of Candidates for the Panel on the SAB website at <https://sab.epa.gov>. Public comments on the List of Candidates will be accepted for 21 days. The public will be requested to provide relevant information or other documentation on nominees that the SAB Staff Office should consider in evaluating candidates.

For the EPA SAB Staff Office, a balanced review panel includes candidates who possess the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to adequately address the charge. In forming the expert panel, the SAB Staff Office will consider public comments on the Lists of Candidates, information provided by the candidates themselves, and background information independently gathered by the SAB Staff Office. Selection criteria to be used for panel membership include: (a) scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) availability and willingness to serve; (c) absence of financial conflicts of

interest; (d) absence of an appearance of a loss of impartiality; (e) skills working in committees, subcommittees and advisory panels; and, (f) for the panel as a whole, diversity of expertise and scientific points of view.

The SAB Staff Office's evaluation of an absence of financial conflicts of interest will include a review of the "Confidential Financial Disclosure Form for Environmental Protection Agency Special Government Employees" (EPA Form 3110-48). This confidential form is required and allows government officials to determine whether there is a statutory conflict between a person's public responsibilities (which include membership on an EPA federal advisory committee) and private interests and activities, or the appearance of a loss of impartiality, as defined by federal regulation. The form may be viewed and downloaded through the "Ethics Requirements for Advisors" link on the SAB website at <https://sab.epa.gov>. This form should not be submitted as part of a nomination.

The approved policy under which the EPA SAB Office selects members for subcommittees and review panels is described in the following document: *Overview of the Panel Formation Process at the Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board* (EPA-SAB-EC-02-010), which is posted on the SAB website at <https://sab.epa.gov>.

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Science Advisory Board Staff Office.

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