

Dear Board Members,

As you know the SAB is currently working to complete five projects:

1. The proposed Science and Transparency rule consultation on CBI and PII (a teleconference meeting will be held on 8/27/19).
2. Reviews of three proposed rules: Science and Transparency, MATS, and SAFE; and,
3. Commentary on WOTUS.

I want to thank you all for your hard work on each of these projects. We have made remarkable progress in a short period of time. All of these projects focus on important regulatory agenda items and it is critical that the Board provide its best advice to the EPA Administrator. I met today with the SAB Staff Office and think that additional time beyond our self-imposed 9/30/19 deadline is needed to complete this work. The scientific and technical advice on these rules must be accurate and impactful.

I have several concerns about meeting the 9/30/19 deadline. First, I am concerned that we may not have the minimum number of members to achieve a quorum for the public teleconferences in September. As you know, we must have 23 members on the line during public meetings to achieve a quorum which is a FACA requirement. Despite the fact that many of you have been working hard on the draft reports, I am also concerned that the work groups and the full Board will need more time to review the reports before they are discussed on public teleconferences. Providing a reasonable amount of time for the work groups to discuss, write and edit these drafts, and for all Board members to review them, is critical to getting high quality products. We need to allow that time during this key step in the process. In addition, I am concerned that with teleconference dates during the week of 9/9/19, members of the Board will not have enough time to consider public comments and comments from other Board members before the teleconferences. Finally, I fear that the scramble to finish the reviews and commentary could hamper our efforts to deliver the consultation we are conducting on 8/27/19, as members will draft post-meeting individual comments.

For these reasons, I have asked the SAB Staff Office to begin soliciting dates in late-October for the public teleconference calls for the reviews of three proposed rules: Science and Transparency, MATS, and SAFE; and, the Commentary on WOTUS. This work is too important to rush. I appreciate all the efforts you have given to get us to the position we are in now in the development of draft materials.

Please feel free to reach out to me or Tom Brennan in the SAB Staff Office if you have any questions.

Best,
Mike