UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 25 2002

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
SCIENCE POLICY COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Interim Genomics Policy

TO: Deputy Administrator
Assistant Administrators
Regional Administrators
General Counsel
Chief Financial Officer
Inspector General
Associate Administrators

I am very pleased to present the Science Policy Council's (SPC's) Interim Policy on Genomics prepared for EPA staff and managers. In addition, this interim policy communicates to interested parties external to EPA our initial thoughts concerning genomics and its related technologies. The interim policy is the product of efforts by many EPA employees across the Agency who contributed their time in response to the SPC's charge to begin addressing the issues stemming from genomics research and information. Following issuance of the interim policy, the Agency will continue to play a role in the research and regulatory venues related to genomics.

Genomics information will have an enormous impact on our ability to assess risks from exposure to stressors, elucidate mechanisms of action, and examine effects from combinations of stressors. The interim policy encourages prudent and beneficial uses of genomics information on a case-by-case basis. It is felt our risk assessments will ultimately improve through the use and consideration of genomics information.

As the Agency gains experience from its genomics research efforts and use of genomics information, the SPC will reexamine and, if appropriate, refine the interim policy. I believe the Interim Policy on Genomics is an excellent initial guide for our thinking on genomics and highlights the various regulatory and research directions the Agency will pursue. The Administrator and I encourage Agency personnel to follow the interim policy as we move to articulate more fully EPA's position in this growing arena.

Paul Gilman, Ph.D.

Paul Gilman

Science Advisor to the Agency
Chair, Science Policy Council

Attachment

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