
Review of the Process for Setting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Public Meeting

June 27, 2006

Overview of Today's Discussion

- Focus of the Review
 - Summary of workgroup recommendations
 - Key issues to highlight
 - Key functional elements and timeline
 - Additional considerations
 - Additional recommendations from Bill Wehrum (Acting AA/OAR) and George Gray (AA/ORD)
 - Public outreach activities
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Focus of the Review

- Timeliness (*i.e.*, how to complete the various NAAQS reviews in the statutory 5-year period)
 - Consideration of the most up-to-date scientific information
 - Differences between scientific and policy judgments
 - Defining and expressing uncertainties in scientific and technical information
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Summary of workgroup recommendations and key issues

- Planning
 - One integrated plan, focused on key policy-relevant issues
 - Science Assessment
 - Restructure Criteria Document to be a concise synthesis of the most policy-relevant science
 - Risk/Exposure Assessment
 - More concise document, focused on key results and uncertainties
 - Policy Assessment
 - Replace Staff Paper with more narrowly focused policy assessment document
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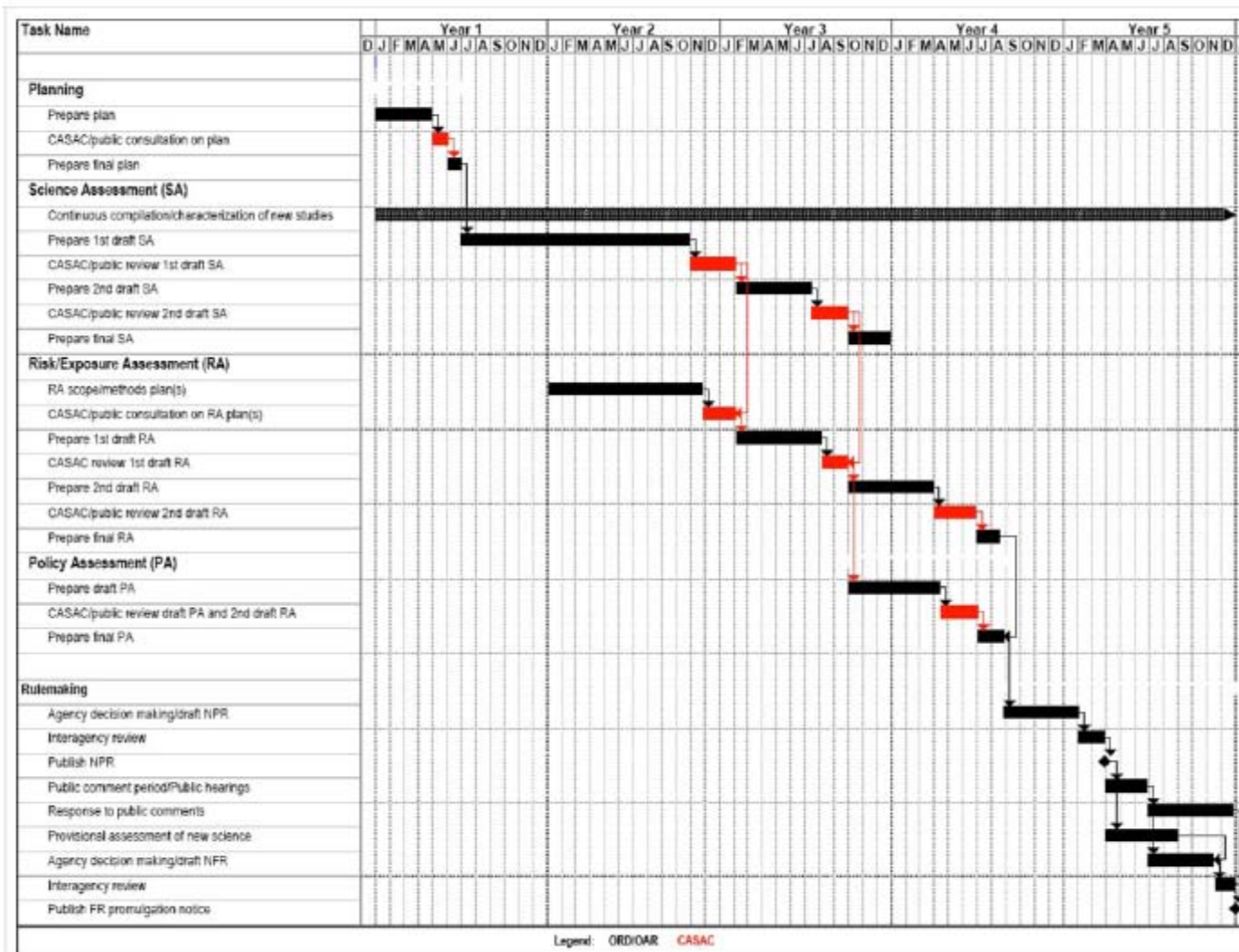
Additional considerations

- Organizational, staffing, and resource implications
 - Development of state-of-the-art electronic database for new science
 - Consider implications (for EPA and CASAC) of conducting reviews of all NAAQS on 5-year cycles
 - Consider formation of CASAC risk/exposure subcommittee
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Key Functional Elements in Alternative NAAQS Process

Planning	Science Assessment	Risk/exposure Assessment	Policy Assessment	Rulemaking
<p>Plan for Review of Criteria and NAAQS</p> <p><i>Combine plans into one policy-relevant review plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and schedule for entire review • Policy-relevant issues to frame assessments • Projected scope of risk/exposure assessments • Overview of approach to policy assessment • CASAC/public review 	<p>Science Assessment Document</p> <p><i>Continuous compilation/ characterization of new science in conjunction with periodic NAAQS-relevant science assessments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous compilation/ characterization of relevant new science in electronic database <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iterative drafts of concise, policy-relevant evaluation/ synthesis of new science with comprehensive descriptive annexes of information drawn from database [obviating the need for the synthesis of science now in a Staff Paper] • Allow for CASAC/public reviews of two drafts, with expectation of CASAC "closure" • Final document 	<p>Risk/exposure Assessment Reports</p> <p><i>Include risk/exposure content that is now in a Staff Paper</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed scope/methods plan clearly built on issues/ conclusions in science assessment document • CASAC/public review • Sequential drafts of phases of assessment in concise reports with comprehensive annexes (and supporting staff memos) • CASAC/public review • Final assessment reports 	<p>Policy Assessment Document</p> <p><i>Include policy assessment content that is now in a Staff Paper</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach to evidence- and risk-based policy assessment • Policy-relevant air quality analyses (and supporting staff memos) • Draft policy assessment drawn from science and risk/exposure assessment documents, including recommended ranges of alternative standards • CASAC/public review, with CASAC advice on standards • Final document • Potentially additional CASAC advice on final document 	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Proposal Notice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially drawn from science, risk, and policy assessment text and CASAC advice • Interagency review • Administrator's rationale for proposed decisions, • Reasons for any differences from CASAC recommendations <p>Post-Proposal Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearings and comments • Potential for additional CASAC advice • Planned assessment of "new" science drawn from ongoing compilation of studies in database • Document responding to all significant comments <p>Final Notice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of responses to significant comments • Consideration of "new" science assessment • Interagency review • Administrator's rationale for any changes to proposal

Timeline for Alternative NAAQS Process



Additional recommendations from George Gray and Bill Wehrum

- Appropriate for Policy Assessment to reflect Agency's views
 - At what point(s) is management input needed?
 - What level of review is appropriate?
 - Serious consideration to publishing Policy Assessment as an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR)
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Public outreach

- Workgroup report recommended continuing dialogue with the public on issues addressed in review, recognizing limited opportunity to date
 - Gray/Wehrum memo also noted benefit from further consultation with CASAC and the public
 - Public meeting (June 27, 2006)
 - CASAC meeting (June 29, 2006)
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