

CHARTER  
of the  
AIR QUALITY RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

**A. Official Designation**

The Air Quality Research Subcommittee (AQRS) is hereby reestablished by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS).

**B. Purpose**

The purpose of the AQRS is to advise and assist the CENRS and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on the coordination and enhancement of the effectiveness of U.S. air quality research. The research scope of the AQRS will include the observation, understanding, prediction, and assessment of the causes and consequences, both physical and biological, of degraded air quality, and the development of effective preservation and remediation strategies.

**C. Functions**

Reporting to and coordinating with the CENRS, the AQRS will:

1. Identify research information needed to inform policy decisions on air quality and identify research that would benefit from interagency collaboration in addressing those needs.
2. Develop Federal research strategies that will provide an improved scientific basis for the cost-effective improvement of air quality in the United States across the short- and long-term.
3. Coordinate Federal research & development priorities in accordance with the scientific needs of existing Federal air quality efforts, such as those related to ozone and particulate matter arising from natural and human processes, including emissions from wildfires, power plants, and urban areas.
4. Serve as a forum to facilitate research planning, coordination, and communication among those Federal agencies engaged in air quality research.
5. As permitted by law, provide information to strengthen the interface between research and those organizations that formulate and/or recommend air quality policy, including Federal, State, industry, and nongovernmental entities.



6. Identify and help coordinate research topics that inform the work of other NSTC groups and relevant Federal interagency groups.
7. Periodically assess the effectiveness of Federal air quality research programs.
8. Sponsor, as appropriate and as permitted by law, meetings or workshops to assess the scientific basis for understanding air quality phenomena.

**D. Leadership and membership**

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the AQRS:

Department of Agriculture;  
Department of Commerce (Co-chair);  
Department of Defense;  
Department of Energy;  
Department of Health and Human Services;  
Department of Housing and Urban Development;  
Department of the Interior;  
Department of State;  
Department of Transportation;  
Environmental Protection Agency (Co-chair);  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration;  
National Science Foundation; and  
Tennessee Valley Authority.

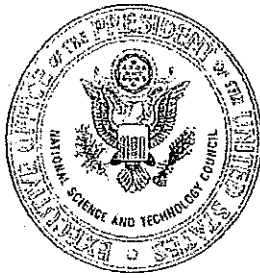
The following components in the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the AQRS:

Council on Environmental Quality;  
Office of Management and Budget; and  
Office of Science and Technology Policy

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include other such Executive organizations, departments, and agencies as the Co-chairs may, from time to time, designate. The AQRS will also strive to enhance the Federal research and development enterprise by embracing diversity, recognizing that inclusion of a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives is critical to achieving robust intellectual dialogue.

**E. Private-Sector Interface**

The AQRS may seek advice from members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science



and Technology to secure appropriate private-sector<sup>1</sup> advice, and will recommend to the CENRS and/or the Assistant to the President on Science and Technology the nature of any additional non-Federal advice needed to accomplish its mission. The AQRS may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**F. Termination date**

Unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the CENRS prior to its expiration, the AQRS shall terminate no later than July 31, 2017.

**G. Determination**

We hereby determine that the reestablishment of the Air Quality Research Subcommittee is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

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<sup>1</sup> The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define "private sector," but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, international bodies.



Approved:

Thomas Burke  
Co-chair, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources,  
and Sustainability, of the NSTC;  
Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development  
and Science Advisor  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

MAY 6 2016

Date

Tamara Dickinson  
Co-chair, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources,  
and Sustainability, of the NSTC;  
Principal Assistant Director for Environment and Energy  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President

5/10/16

Date

Kathryn Sullivan  
Co-chair, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources,  
and Sustainability, of the NSTC;  
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration; and  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Department of Commerce

APR 27 2016

Date