

December 4, 2012

The Honorable Jane Lubchenco  
Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811  
14<sup>th</sup> Street & Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

I am pleased to transmit to you the following report from the Science Advisory Board's Satellite Task Force. The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations that will assist the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) in planning for future satellite systems. The major finding of this review is that NOAA is faced with a demanding and evolving set of challenges, and addressing these challenges will take time. An alternative for GOES and JPSS may take up to a decade; however, there are actions that can be taken in the near term.

The review panel felt that the recommendations provided should assist in addressing today's challenges and strengthen the existing foundation. The panel's eight recommendations are: 1) Advocating, at the NOAA leadership level, for a stable funding environment, 2) Establishing a prioritized list of threshold space-based observational requirements that maintain high impact capabilities, 3) Creating a Chief Systems Engineering function within NESDIS, 4) Developing a cost-capped implementation plan for a NOAA Enterprise Ground System, 5) Developing an integrated master schedule addressing the entire satellite system architecture, 6) Developing a tailored overarching risk-management plan, 7) Creating a plan and a process for developing innovative and contingency options to mitigate gaps and potential reductions in capability and capacity, and 8) Conducting an analysis of alternatives, starting in FY13, considering cost, performance, risk and resiliency, and assessing trade space.

A desired outcome is to provide NOAA and the nation the means to address the core requirements of the user community, meet national policy guidance, continue to leverage the international satellite enterprise, and reduce risk. The SAB fully supports this outcome and encourages NOAA leadership to continue to endorse these efforts.

Sincerely,



**Raymond J. Ban**  
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board  
Managing Director, Ban & Associates, LLC.

Attachment

cc: Marshall Shepherd  
Robert Winokur  
David Hermreck  
Cynthia Decker  
Sanya Compton