



SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

July 30, 2020

Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction

Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811

14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

Subject: Transmittal of Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) 3rd Annual Report to Congress

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit the SAB Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) third annual report on progress made by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in adopting the Working Group's recommendations as mandated by Title IV, Sec. 401(c) of the Weather Research and Forecasting Improvement Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-25, signed 18 April 2017). The EISWG transmitted this report to the SAB on July 9, 2020, and the SAB approved it at its July 22-23, 2020 meeting.

In the past year, EISWG has become more proactive and efficient in its work. As a result, the EISWG is becoming increasingly effective at addressing its responsibilities within the Weather Act. However, as the report review process can still be quite slow, the EISWG has raised the possibility of becoming Special Government Employees to allow them to preview the reports and respond in a more timely way.

In January 2020, the EISWG received a response from NOAA on two previously submitted reports: the Observing Systems Simulation Experiments (OSSE) and the Tornado Warning Improvement and Extension Program Plan. While the NOAA responses to EISWG's recommendations in each were brief, and generally without significant detail, they were highly valuable in that they provided the EISWG important visibility into the thoughts and priorities of the NOAA Leadership Team - as well as future plans and directions. The EISWG also received, in January 2020, NOAA's response to the EISWG's report on the Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC) workshop (held in August 2019). EISWG has committed considerable attention to EPIC over the past year and will continue to prioritize and assess NOAA's progress on EPIC. Finally, the EISWG is currently reviewing one report on the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program, which will be submitted to the SAB by fall 2020.

As stated in the Weather Research and Forecasting Improvement Act of 2017, the EISWG is to transmit its annual report to the SAB for submission to the Under Secretary. As you know, you are to submit within 30 days of receiving this report a copy of the report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns, or if the SAB can be of assistance in any way.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. Kreider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John R. Kreider
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board

Attachment: Third NOAA SAB EISWG report to the US Congress

cc: RDML Tim Gallaudet
Michael Weiss
Adrian Mahoney
Bob Winokur
Cynthia Decker
Andrea Bleistein
Brad Colman
John Snow
Courtney Edwards