



SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

August 31, 2023

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Spinrad:

Subject: Transmittal of Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) 6th Annual Report to Congress

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you the SAB Environmental Information Services Working Group's (EISWG) sixth annual Report to Congress 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) (Weather Act). The EISWG presented this report to the SAB, and the SAB approved it at its July 26-27, 2023 meeting.

The 2023 EISWG Report to Congress (RtC) begins with statements on the urgent need for NOAA's weather programs to meet rapidly increasing demands, and the critical support provided by Congress. This is followed by sections which focus on: 1) the assessment of NOAA progress in adopting previous EISWG recommendations (as required by The Weather Act); 2) a brief summary of new EISWG reports with findings and recommendations approved by the SAB within the last year; 3) additional topic areas currently in preparation by EISWG; and 4) the close relation of EISWG activities to the Priorities for Weather Research (PWR) report, its recommendations, and its potential impact on the 2024 EISWG Report to Congress. The report closes with a summary of common needs and recommended immediate first steps.

This Report to Congress is the first to take on a comprehensive, retrospective, look at NOAA's overall response to EISWG recommendations across multiple topics. For this, the EISWG participated in a series of high-level discussions with NOAA and external subject matter experts to collect the targeted high-level updates on successes and challenges with regards to implementing EISWG recommendations. Through this process, the EISWG found that NOAA consistently concurs with EISWG recommendations, but much work that NOAA agrees is

important is deferred. Congress has increased investments in NOAA significantly through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). These investments will enhance NOAA weather programs and services, and some will support EISWG and PWR recommendations directly.

As stated in the Weather Act, the EISWG is to transmit its annual report to the SAB for submission to the Under Secretary, who then submits it, within 30 days of receipt, to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The EISWG remains committed to supporting the SAB, NOAA, and Congress, in their critical endeavors, and looks forward to supporting future requests for information as needed.

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,



John R. Kreider
SAB Chair

Cc:	Karen Hyun	Cindy Elsenheimer
	Michael Weiss	Martin Yapur
	Sarah Kapnick	Brad Colman
	Kenneth Graham	Scott Glenn
	Velna Bullock	Casey Stewart
	Tamara Battle	Karin Bucht
	Carl Gouldman	Viviane Silva

Attachment: Sixth NOAA SAB EISWG report to the US Congress