Administrator,

Thank you again for providing remarks at ORD's Small Business Innovation Research Program kick-off meeting. Next week I will deliver a keynote address at the EPA-sponsored, 'A Community on Ecosystem Services' (ACES) conference, in Arlington, Virginia. I will focus on ecosystem services and resilience to natural hazards. Many EPA scientists will be among the over 500 participants, who will include researchers and practitioners addressing ecosystem services from federal, state, and local governments, academia, industry, and tribes.

Hot issues

Naval Postgraduate School uses ORD's Water Network Tool for Resilience

ORD scientists have lead the development of the Water Network Tool for Resilience (WNTR) that simulates and analyzes the resilience of water distribution networks to a variety of hazardous scenarios, including earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and extreme storms. Recently, the Naval Postgraduate School used WNTR in a report to examine the resilience of water and power utilities. One potential application discussed in the report was the water utility on the U.S. Virgin Islands.

High Impact Publications Support Implementation of TSCA

Two ORD authored articles are Editor Highlights in the latest issue of *Toxicological Sciences*. One article features the updated SeqAPASS computational tool, which rapidly assesses the likelihood that a chemical will act on the same protein target in another species based on similarities in protein structure and sequence. Study results provide a compelling line of evidence for using SeqAPASS to derive screening level, species-specific, susceptibility predictions for both human and ecological hazard assessments. The second article presents study results, which further developed the potential for high-throughput expression profiling technologies that can simultaneously evaluate the potential contribution of multiple signaling pathways to an adverse outcome, allowing for more focused use of secondary, more costly screening technologies. Both approaches will be of high utility in implementing new approaches for TSCA.

CASAC Teleconference

On November 29th, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) will hold a teleconference to provide comment on the "Review Plan for the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards, External Review Draft (draft IRP)." The draft IRP was prepared by the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAR/OAQPS) and ORD as part of EPA's ongoing review of the ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).

Discussing PFAS Preliminary findings with New Jersey DEP

On December 4 and 5, ORD will meet with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The ORD team will share data reports and discuss preliminary findings with NJDEP project partners on the detection and distribution of PFAS compounds in water bodies, soil and vegetation in an industrialized area where PFAS are manufactured. Additional ORD presentations will include an overview of non-targeted analysis methods and a summary briefing to NJDEP management and staff. The trip will also include a visit to a chemical manufacturing facility.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events (look out two weeks)

Tribal Science Council Meeting

On December 3-7, ORD will host the National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC) meeting. Bruce Rodan will provide remarks, and ORD scientists will provide lab tours, demonstrate new technologies, and present on research activities of interest to tribes. The meeting will feature a training on Indigenous Research Framework and Methodologies and an interactive "Speed-Learning" session for information exchange between tribal and ORD scientists.