The National Academies of
SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

Division on Earth and Life Studies
Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology

December 9, 2021

David Lehmann
Task Order Contracting Officer Representative
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ORD/CPHEA/HEEAD/IHAB
U.S. EPA 109 T.W. Alexander Dr.
MD: B243-01
RTP, NC 27711

Re: November 2021 Progress Report,
Contract 68HERC19D0011/68HERC21F0010

Assessing Causality from a Multidisciplinary Evidence Base for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Consensus Report on Assessing Causality)

Dear Dr. Lehmann:

This progress report for the above mentioned project covers the month of November 2021. Information on project-related activities and expenditures is provided, as are (1) a table of monthly labor costs, cumulative labor costs, total monthly expenditures, cumulative total expenditures, and the percentage of the total potential award spent, and (2) figures showing a comparison of total funds spent and labor costs, cumulative funds spent by activity (excluding labor), and cumulative hours worked by staff.

Task 1.2 Project Milestone Chart
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (National Academies) provided a table of proposed milestones and deliverables. An updated milestone chart including actual dates of delivery is attached to this document.

Task 2. Monthly EPA-NAS Teleconferences and Written Quarterly Progress Report
Monthly calls have been regularly held the 2nd Wednesday of the month, with additional calls scheduled as necessary. Monthly written progress reports and quarterly reports have thus far been provided on schedule.

Task 3. Establish Expert Committee
National Academies staff solicited nominations for the ad hoc study committee from a variety of sources including members of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, relevant stakeholder groups within the two collaborating National Academies divisions, EPA staff, individuals who have served as CASAC members in the last 5 years, and members of previous relevant National Academies study committees. The approved committee slate is posted on the National Academies study webpage (https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/assessing-causality-from-a-multidisciplinary-evidence-base-for-national-ambient-air-quality-standards). The committee slate transitioned from provisional to final following a committee composition and bias discussion with the members on May 24, 2021. A change to the committee slate was posted on the study webpage during the performance period. Joan Bennett resigned from the committee on

November 28th for personal reasons. Given how far along the committee is in its deliberations, and after consultation with National Academies leadership, it was decided that a replacement for Dr. Bennett will not be sought.

Task 4. Consensus Study Report on Causal Frameworks and Convene Expert Committee Meetings
The committee has been convened and held its first three series of open and closed session meetings to discuss the project scope, hear from a variety of experts, and from those with scientific critiques of the existing framework for determining causality. The committee's final formal and completely closed series of sessions was held November 18-19, 2021. The committee did not hear from experts during this meeting, but rather used the time to deliberate its charge as necessary and discuss its recommendations.

Financial information for November 2021

Cost Category	**Expenditures ($)**
Labor Cost	Ex. 4 CBI
ODCs	
Overhead	
G&A	
Total	**25,810.47**

The total expenditures since inception (as of November 2021) are $344,395.66.

Sincerely,

Sammantha Magsino
Responsible Staff Officer

cc: Mark Cranley, EPA (CO)
Jorge Rangel, EPA (CLCOR)
Clifford Duke, National Academies/BEST
Laura Llanos, National Academies/BEST
Lavonne Burgess, National Academies/OCFO
Tasha Seabron, National Academies/OCFO

EPA Assessing Causality for NAAQS
Sponsor Award # 68HERC19D0011/68HERC21F0010
Progress Report, November 1, 2021 thru November 30, 2021
Total Dollars Spent (Thousand)

Ex. 4 CBI

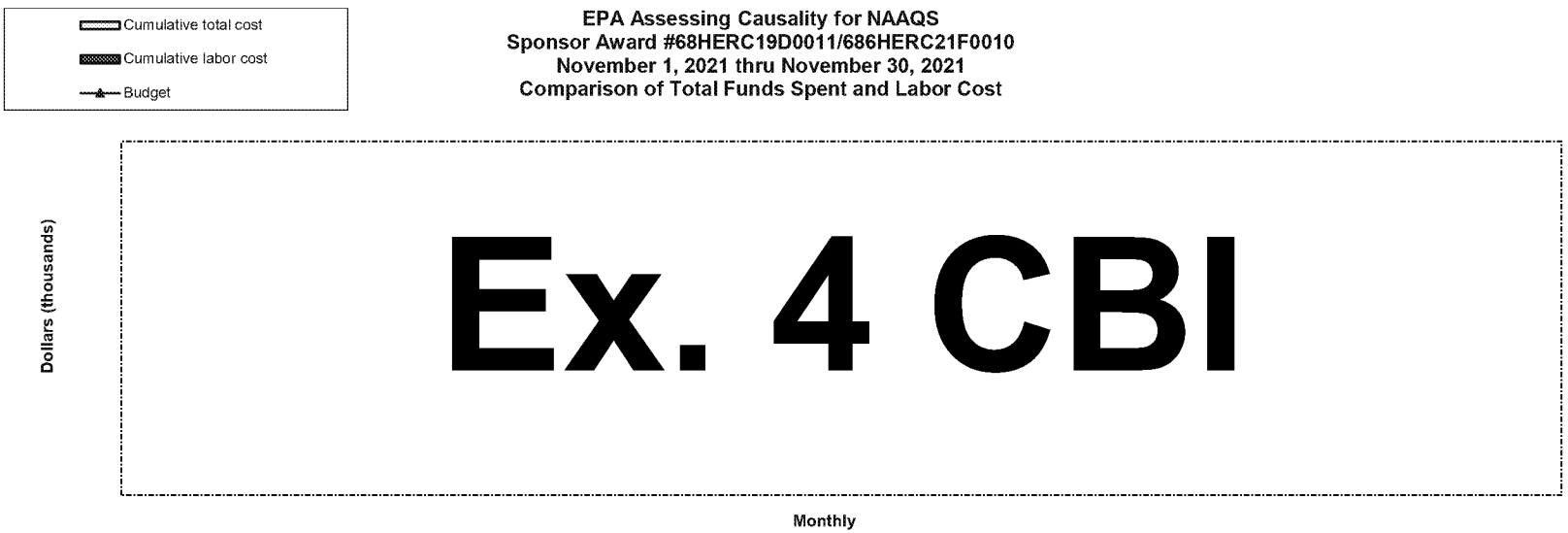
782.65

EPA Assessing Causality for NAAQS
Sponsor Award # 68HERC19D0011/686HERC21F0010
Progress Report, November 1, 2021 thru November 30, 2021
Cumulative Funds Spent by Task (Excluding Labor)

Dollars spent

Ex. 4 CBI

Task


Cumulative total cost
Cumulative labor cost
Budget
EPA Assessing Causality for NAAQS
Sponsor Award #68HERC19D0011/686HERC21F0010
November 1, 2021 thru November 30, 2021
Comparison of Total Funds Spent and Labor Cost
Dollars (thousands)
Ex. 4 CBI
Monthly

EPA Assessing Causality for NAAQS
Sponsor Award # 68HERC19D0011/686HERC21F0010
Progress Report, November 1, 2021 - November 30, 2021

Hours worked this month

Hours

Ex. 4 CBI

Estimated Project Work Plan and Milestone Chart (revised April 15, 2021)[a]

Activity	Deliverable	Scheduled Delivery Date	Delivery Date
National Academies approval of the TO			October 28, 2020
Kick-off Web Conference	Meeting invitation	(actual: October 28, 202)	October 28, 2020
Develop project milestone chart	Project milestone chart	By December 14, 2020 [Within thirty (30) business days]	November 13, 2020
1st monthly teleconference with TOCOR and relevant EPA staff to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email; progress report sent by email	November 19, 2020; 9am Eastern	Progress report sent November 13 Teleconference: November 19, 2020
2nd monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	December 9, 2020; 10am Eastern	December 9, 2020 (second call held December 22) Monthly progress report proved December 8
3rd monthly teleconference to review TO progress	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	January 13, 2021; 10am Eastern	January 13, 2021 (second call held January 27)
Prepare Q1 progress report detailing progress for tasks and any deviations from project milestone chart	Q1 progress report delivered to TOCOR	January 28, 2021	Partial progress report submitted January 12, 2021 and appended with end-of-year financial information January 29)
Committee approved by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	Committee roster made public via National Academies website	January 28, 2021	April 14, 2021
4th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	February 10, 2021; 10am Eastern	February 10, 2021 (follow-up call held February 24) Progress report submitted February 9, 2021
5th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	March 10, 2021; 10am Eastern	March 11, 2021 Progress report submitted March 11, 2021

Preparation of Q2 progress report detailing progress for tasks and any deviations from project milestone chart	Q2 progress report delivered to TOCOR	April 28, 2021	April 28, 2021
Coordinate 1st committee meeting and public information gathering sessions (to be held virtually)[b]	Public session agenda, briefing materials, written list of all meeting presenters and discussants for meetings delivered by email to TOCOR	February/March 2021 (within 5 business days after conclusion of meeting)	April 30 (Closed) May 19 (Open) May 21 (Open) May 24 (Closed)
6th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	April 14, 2021; 10am Eastern	April 14, 2021 Progress report submitted April 13, 2021
7th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	May 12, 2021; 10am Eastern	May 12, 2021 Progress report submitted May 12, 2021
8th monthly teleconference to review TO progress	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	June 9, 2021; 10am Eastern	June 24, 2021 (rescheduled to accommodate travel schedule) Progress report submitted June 22, 2021
Coordinate 2nd committee meeting and public information gathering sessions (to be held virtually or in person, dependent on evolving travel situation and committee needs)	Public session agenda, briefing materials, written list of all meeting presenters and discussants for meetings delivered by email to TOCOR	July 2021 (within 5 business days after conclusion of meeting)	Scheduled for July 19, 20, and 26, 2021
Preparation of Q3 progress report detailing progress for tasks and any deviations from project milestone chart	Q3 progress report delivered to TOCOR	July 28, 2021	July 13, 2021 Progress report submitted July 13, 2021
9th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	July 14, 2021; 10am Eastern	July 14, 2021

10th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	August 11, 2021; 10am Eastern	August 3, 2021 Submitted August 10
Coordinate 3rd committee meeting and public information gathering sessions (to be held virtually or in person, dependent on evolving travel situation and committee needs)	Public session agenda, briefing materials, written list of all meeting presenters and discussants for meetings delivered by email to TOCOR	September 2021 (within 5 business days after conclusion of meeting)	September 23 and 24, 2021
11th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	September 14, 2021; Noon Eastern	September 14, 2021 Progress report submitted September 13
Preparation of Q4 progress report detailing progress for tasks and any deviations from project milestone chart	Q4 progress report delivered to TOCOR	October 28, 2021	Submitted October 12, 2021
12th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	October 13, 2021; 10am Eastern	October 21, 2021 Progress report submitted October 15
13th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	November 10, 2021; 10am Eastern	
Coordinate 4th committee meeting to be held entirely in closed session and virtually or in person, dependent on evolving travel situation and committee needs.	N/A	November 2021	November 18-19, 2021
14th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	December 8, 2021; 10am Eastern	December 8, 2021 Progress report submitted December 10, 2021

15th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	January 12, 2022; 10am Eastern	
Preparation of Q5 progress report detailing progress for tasks and any deviations from project milestone chart	Q5 progress report delivered to TOCOR	January 28, 2022	
16th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	February 9, 2022; 10am Eastern	
Committee's consensus report enters National Academies review process	N/A	February 15, 2022	
17th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	March 9, 2022; 10am Eastern	
18th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	April 12, 2022; 10am Eastern	
Preparation of Q6, progress report detailing progress for tasks and any deviations from project milestone chart	Q6 progress report delivered to TOCOR	April 28, 2022	
19th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	May 9, 2022; 10am Eastern	
Develop dissemination plan including sponsor/public briefings and any derivative products agreed upon with the sponsor	Schedule sponsor and public briefings and release of any agreed upon derivative products	May 2022	
Preparation of a prepublication version of the committee's consensus report to be delivered to	Notification via email of the public website where the PDF of the prepublication may be downloaded.	June 1, 2022	

the TOCOR in PDF form and posted on The National Academies Press website			
20th monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	June 9, 2022; 10am Eastern	
21st monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	July 14, 2022; 10am Eastern	
Preparation of Q7 progress report detailing progress for tasks and any deviations from project milestone chart	Q7 progress report delivered to TOCOR	July 28, 2022	
22nd monthly teleconference to review TO progress Monthly written progress report	Teleconference agenda delivered by email	August 14, 2022; 10am Eastern	
Adobe PDFs of the final report will be prepared and posted on The National Academies Press website and hardcopies will be made available to the TOCOR	Instructions for downloading PDFs and 100 hardcopies of the final consensus study report	August 31, 2022	
Preparation of final quarterly report	Final quarterly report delivered to TOCOR	August 31, 2022	

[a] Dates are based on the performance period indicated in the task order agreement. Meeting dates will be set by the committee, in consultation with sponsor. Meeting dates are estimated and will based on the availability of committee members.

[b] Virtual meetings may consist of multiple blocks of web conferences held over subsequent days.

[c] Highlighted dates to be determined by committee or with TOCOR.

Blue shading: committee processes

No shading: Administrative processes