

NAE-NRC Committee on Air Pollution

Chairman: Professor Thomas K. Sherwood, Department of Chemical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
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 (Other members to be appointed.)

NAE-NRC Committee on Noise

Chairman: Mr. Laymon N. Miller, Bolt, Beranek and Newman, Inc., 50 Moulton Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
 (Members to be appointed.)

Each of these committees is now engaged in discussions with the appropriate agencies of the executive branch concerning actual or proposed contracts for advice and services; for example, HEW, AEC, the Appalachian Regional Commission.

It is the continuing responsibility of the ESB, however, to make sure that these committees interact with each other and do not make recommendations incompatible with each other.

One of the recommendations of the PSAC report, the Tukey report, "Restoring the Quality of Our Environment," was the following:

We recommend that the following steps be taken to provide for early identification of broad problems involving pollution and to avoid gaps and imbalances in their study: (a) The Federal Council for Science and Technology should establish a Committee on Pollution Problems, composed of its own members. (b) The National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council should be asked to establish an Environmental Pollution Board, to be supported by government grant. (c) This NAS-NRC Board should meet jointly with the FCST Committee at least once a year to discuss newly recognized broad problems and current changes in the apparent importance of those previously recognized. (d) This Board and Committee should cooperate, through working-level mechanisms such as joint panels, to identify the most pressing broad problems, and the general character of new knowledge or techniques needed to study or ameliorate them.

The Environmental Studies Board was established in part as a response to this recommendation, although our basic support is derived at present from the academies themselves rather than the Federal Government, as recommended in the Tukey report. The parallel committee of the Federal Council for Science and Technology, the Committee on Environmental Quality, was established in the spring of 1967. A joint meeting of the ESB and the CEQ was held on October 19, 1967, and arrangements were made for continuing close contact and cooperation of the two groups.

Dr. King, the chairman of the Committee on Environmental Equality attends many of our meetings, and Mr. Reed, the executive secretary of the ESB attends many of the meetings of the CEQ.

With the accomplishment of two of its first projects, the coordination and reorganization of the activities of the NAS-NAE-NRC and the establishing of mechanisms and channels for both policy and working level contacts with governmental agencies, the ESB and its committees have begun to concentrate on their major responsibility, a response to the challenge so clearly stated in the report of your subcommittee of October 21, 1966:

The scientific and engineering community should respond to the challenge of the pollution problem as a major opportunity to serve a public need. Work in