On November 5, the House passed on a bipartisan vote of 228-206 a $1 trillion infrastructure package, which has been sent to President Biden to sign and pass into law. The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* would provide $550 billion in new spending on transportation, energy, broadband, climate resiliency, and water infrastructure as well as $450 billion to extend funding for highway, transit, rail, and research initiatives for surface transportation programs set to expire on December 3 for another five years. Additionally, an updated version of the reconciliation package focused on climate and clean energy, health care, education, child care, and housing was released. A few of the most significant changes included, but are not limited to, adding four weeks of paid family leave, raising the limit on the deduction for state and local income taxes, and a prescription drug price negotiation program. Given the controversy surrounding the Democratic priorities included in the package, the package will likely be significantly amended when it goes to the Senate for consideration.

_The University of Minnesota Washington Update provides intelligence and analysis on recent federal activities. Faculty visiting Washington, D.C. are encouraged to contact Sarah Neimeyer, Director of Government Relations, at neimeyer@umn.edu. Contact Christina Laridaen, Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, at christina@lewis-burke.com with any questions or comments related to the Update’s content._

**Congressional and Administration Updates**

*Congressional Update: House Releases Revised $1.75 Trillion Reconciliation Package and Prepares for a Vote*

On November 3, the House released a revised $1.75 trillion reconciliation package. The House made changes to the budget and legislative framework the Biden Administration released on October 28 for the Build Back Better economic agenda focused on climate and clean energy, health care, education, child care, and housing. The most significant policy and funding changes included adding four weeks of paid family leave, raising the limit on the deduction for state and local income taxes and a prescription drug price negotiation
program. With growing consensus and support for the reconciliation package by House Democrats, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) may bring the reconciliation package along with the bipartisan infrastructure bill to the floor for a vote in the next few days. However, the reconciliation package will likely be significantly amended when it goes to the Senate for consideration. The most recent draft of the legislation reflects only House Democratic priorities and a number of key Senators have already stated their opposition to certain provisions. A number of Members of Congress would also like the official score keeper—the Congressional Budget Office—to provide its independent analysis of spending, revenue, and economic impact on the most recent package before taking a vote.

Major funding and policy changes of most relevance to the research, higher education, and academic medicine community are highlighted below.

Science Infrastructure and Research and Development

The revised package continues to provide funding for research infrastructure and research and development activities for major federal science agencies. While funding for research, development, and associated infrastructure was significantly scaled back from the original $3.5 trillion package—from $45.5 billion to $12 billion—there is sustained and continued support for these efforts, especially to advance climate and clean energy activities. The one agency that saw a slight increase in funding over the last week was the Department of Energy (DOE). The revised reconciliation package added $500 million to DOE to advance a research, development, and production program for high assay low enriched uranium in support of advanced nuclear reactors.

*NOAA would also receive $6 billion to help communities build climate resilience, restore and protect ecosystems, and mitigate human environmental impacts. This may support research and development efforts at institutions of higher education.
Education
• The revised reconciliation bill includes $5 billion to the Department of Education to provide Community College and Industry Partnership Grants. The grants would support post-secondary education and training activities in high-skill, high-wage and in-demand fields.
• The bill would re-establish the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Program and would fund the program at $1.2 billion over five years.
• The bill would remove the original reconciliation bill’s proposed provision to phase out certain private institutions’ tax liability on endowment investment income based on financial aid provided by the institution.

Healthcare
• An additional $1 billion, for a total of $2 billion, to support the construction and renovation of health center and federally qualified health center facilities.
• $2 billion for the National Health Service Corps, in place of $650 million in the previous draft.
• $500 million for the Nurse Corps, in place of $200 million in the previous draft.
• $500 million for Schools of Medicine located in underserved areas, with a preference given to minority serving institutions, to support a variety of activities including the recruitment, enrollment, and retention of individuals from disadvantaged background and underserved areas, curriculum development, construction, and infrastructure modernization efforts.
• $500 million for Schools of Nursing located in underserved areas to support a variety of activities including recruitment, enrollment, and retention of individuals from disadvantaged background and underserved areas, curriculum development, and infrastructure modernization efforts.
• Increases in Graduate Medical Education slots to 4,000 from the 1,000 provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.
• Creates a price negotiation program for prescription drugs in Medicare Part B and D. The number of drugs that would be subject to negotiation would be those representing the highest by gross spending, that are single source drugs outside of their initial exclusivity periods, 9 years for small molecule drugs and 12 years for biologics, as well as insulin products. The bill provides the Secretary authority to negotiate up to 10 drugs for 2025, and then in each following year up to 20 drugs for 2028 and beyond. The bill would also limit out-of-pocket cost-sharing to $2,000 and additional cost-sharing assistance for insulin products by capping monthly co-pays at $35.
• Modifies the Medicare Part D prescription drug program by limiting out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries by requiring insurers to pay 65 percent of a brand drugs cost, and 75 percent of a generic drugs cost. When beneficiaries reach the catastrophic coverage gap, plans would be required to pay 60 percent of drug costs.
• Improves access to vaccines for Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries.

Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates
Agency Update: Department of Energy Holds First Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Meeting Focused on Energy Earthshots
On October 28, the Department of Energy (DOE) held its first Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) meeting under Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm and the Biden Administration. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new SEAB members and allow the Secretary of Energy and the Deputy Secretary
of Energy to highlight their priorities to help guide SEAB’s future work. The discussion primarily focused on DOE’s Energy Earthshots and SEAB recommendations for future game-changing clean energy technology investments. A recording and all presentations can be found here.

DOE had announced the new SEAB members on October 4. The 18 members will serve two-year terms and provide advice to the Secretary of Energy on future research and development and other program activities. SEAB is currently chaired by Dr. Arun Majumdar and Madelyn Creedon. Representation was broadened to include expertise from academic institutions, nuclear security experts, labor unions, utility companies, energy equipment manufacturers, low-income consumers, and non-governmental organizations.

To help guide SEAB’s work, Secretary of Energy Granholm highlighted major priorities for this Administration including:

- The deployment of existing clean energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet net zero electricity goals by 2035, such as DOE’s initiative to accelerate installation of community solar by 2025 to power five million more homes and create $1 billion in energy bill savings and supporting the Biden Administration’s goal of installing 30 Gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030.
- Continued investments in innovation, especially through the Energy Earthshots, to meet economy-wide net zero emissions by 2050.
- Invest in and help communities that have been impacted by pollution and job losses through the energy transition.

This first SEAB meeting happened the same day as the Biden Administration released a $1.75 trillion budget framework for the Build Back Better economic agenda focused on climate and clean energy, health care, education, child care, and housing. The House subsequently released new legislation providing details on the distribution of funding for major federal agencies and programs. Secretary Granholm highlighted the proposed historic $555 billion investment in climate provisions. While the majority of the funding ($320 billion) would be for tax credits and other incentives to build out renewables and other clean energy technologies, the Department of Energy would be responsible for managing $33 billion in new program activities, primarily to assist states and utilities in expanding deployment and transmission of clean energy and energy efficiency improvements, and providing energy loans to the private sector for clean energy technologies and expanded manufacturing and supply chain capabilities. DOE is also slated to receive $73 billion in funding for clean energy demonstrations and transmission line planning and construction in the bipartisan infrastructure bill also being debated in Congress. Given the scale of these investments, DOE will look to SEAB to provide advice on how best to utilize these resources.

One way DOE plans to focus resources and help deploy clean energy technologies at scale to meet decarbonization goals is through Energy Earthshots. DOE already announced two—on hydrogen and long-duration energy storage.

DOE plans to announce six more within the next year. DOE announced those first two because DOE had spent years already developing grand challenge goals and specific targets for those two technology areas through its strategic planning process. DOE is going through a similar process now to develop and refine the next Earthshots. Similar to the prior Earthshots, DOE plans to hold workshops, release Requests for Information, and hold annual summits to engage the research community.
The Energy Earthshots are meant to target the remaining major research, development and demonstration breakthroughs needed in the next decade to solve the climate crisis. They are modeled after the SunShot Initiative, which successfully helped reduce the total costs of solar energy by 75 percent within a decade, making solar cost competitive with other forms of energy. To develop Energy Earthshots, DOE uses the following criteria:

- Make a major impact toward advancing greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
- Demonstrate U.S. global leadership;
- Address a difficult-to-solve remaining technology barrier;
- Achieve a highly ambitious performance target within a decade;
- Communicate a compelling, bold, and inspirational challenge; and
- Significantly engage stakeholder groups, including national labs, academia, industry, state and local governments, communities, and students.

While DOE has not yet shared future topics, the most likely are focused on industrial decarbonization, such as electrification, efficiency improvements, low carbon fuels, and carbon capture. DOE would like SEAB to provide recommendations on future Earthshots.

To successfully meet the Earthshot goals, DOE has created an Earthshots working group to coordinate efforts across all of DOE. The efforts is lead through the DOE Undersecretary for Science and Energy office that has responsibility over all DOE Office of Science and applied energy offices and most DOE national laboratories.

**Agency Update: DOE Highlights Upcoming Opportunities and Future Research Directions for Advanced Scientific Computing Research**

The DOE Office of Science released a Request for Information on Stewardship of Software for Scientific and High-Performance Computing. **Responses are due by December 13.**

The DOE Office of Science is seeking feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, and other stakeholders with an interest in maintaining and developing software for scientific and high-performance computing, including training and workforce support, infrastructure and curation, and shared engineering resources and project support. Feedback will be used by DOE to develop future funding solicitations and other financial assistance to sustain the scientific and high-performance computing software ecosystem. This effort is consistent with the “Transitioning ASCR after ECP” report with recommendations to DOE on how to take advantage of new exascale computing investments and transition funding to new research programs that will shape the future of high performance computing.

DOE is seeking input in nine categories:

1. Software dependencies and requirements for scientific application development and/or research in computer science and applied mathematics relevant to DOE’s mission priorities,
2. Practices related to the security and integrity of software and data,
3. Infrastructure requirements for software development for scientific and high-performance computing,
4. Developing and maintaining community software,
5. Challenges in building a diverse workforce and maintaining an inclusive professional environment,
6. Requirements, barriers, and challenges to technology transfer, and building communities around software projects, including forming consortia and other non-profit organizations,
7. Overall scope of the stewardship effort,
8. Management and oversight structure of the stewardship effort, and
9. Assessment and criteria for success for the stewardship effort.

**Funding Opportunity: DOD Releases SERDP BAA for Environmental Research and Development**
The Department of Defense (DOD) recently released its fiscal year (FY) 2023 broad agency announcement (BAA) for its Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP). Through partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Energy (DOE), SERDP works to develop environmental technologies and address environmental issues relevant to DOD’s mission. SERDP supports basic and applied research focused on environmental restoration, munitions response, resource conservation and resiliency, and weapons systems and platforms, among other interests.

All private sector organizations are eligible to apply to this BAA. This includes, but is not limited to, small businesses, large businesses, and educational institutions. DOD anticipates funding multiple awards at $10 million total.

Awardees will be selected through a “multi-stage review process” which requires a pre-proposal, a full proposal, and an oral presentation to the SERDP Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) for final approval. The anticipated schedule for the review process is outlined as follows:

- Pre-proposals are due by **January 6, 2022, at 2:00 PM ET**
- Full proposals are due by **March 3, 2022, at 2:00 PM ET**
- Presentations to SERDP SAB anticipated to occur in September – October 2022
- Final awards are expected to be announced in June 2023

Pre-proposals submitted in response to this solicitation should directly address one of SERDP’s FY 2023 Statements of Need (SON), which can be found on the SERDP website. Proposals will be evaluated based on their relevance to SERDP’s mission and the proposer’s ability to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the environmental issue outlined in the SON. More information on SERDP and the solicitation can be found here or at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) under notice ID “W912HQ22S0001”.

**Funding Opportunity: ED Releases Remaining FY 2021 FIPSE Program Competitions**
On November 5, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) released a notice inviting applications (NIA) for the three remaining fiscal year (FY) 2021 Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) programs. The three remaining FIPSE programs are the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program, Modeling and Simulation for Postsecondary Students Program, and the Rural Postsecondary Economic Development Program.

**Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program**
The Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program aims to support the basic needs of students at institutions of higher education (IHE) and report on methods to improve student outcomes. Proposals should demonstrate IHE commitment in developing and expanding support for the basic needs of students. There is growing evidence that several food and housing insecurities compromise the well-being of students and can create barriers to completing their degrees. ED believes that supporting students’ basic needs generates
better academic performance, retention and completion, and reducing barriers that students face. The NIA for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program contains one absolute priority and one competitive preference. All applicants must address the Absolute Priority and have the option of addressing Competitive Preference Priority.

- **Absolute Priority: Strengthening Cross-Agency Coordination and Community Engagement to Advance Systemic Change**
  - Projects should be designed with a systemic approach for improving outcomes for underserved students that includes coordination efforts between Federal, State, Local agencies, or community-based organizations that support students. Two or more of the following basic needs must be addressed:
    - Food assistance.
    - Housing.
    - Transportation.
    - Health, including access to mental health support.
    - Childcare.
    - Dependent care.
    - Technology.

- **Competitive Preference Priority (5 points): Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs**
  - Projects designed with a focus to support underserved students’ social, emotional, and academic needs. ED would award an additional five points to an application meeting this priority.

**Due Dates:** Full proposals are due by **December 5, 2021**.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** ED intends to award a total of up to $4.9 million, with award size ranging from $1.1 million to $1.237 million funding up to $990,000 for projects over a period of up to 36 months. Five program grants are expected to be awarded. Cost sharing is not required.

**Eligibility and Limitations:** Community Colleges that are Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI), Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU), and Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCU) defined in this notice are eligible to apply, along with any institutions that ED determines eligible.

**Sources and Additional Information:**

- The official NIA for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program can be found at [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/11/05/2021-24362/applications-for-new-awards-basic-needs-for-postsecondary-students-program](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/11/05/2021-24362/applications-for-new-awards-basic-needs-for-postsecondary-students-program).

**Modeling and Simulation for Postsecondary Students Program**

The Modeling and Simulation for Postsecondary Students Program is aimed to encourage modeling and simulation studies at institutions of higher education (IHE) and seeks to fund the development or enhancement of degree programs focused on modeling and simulation. These programs help develop tools and techniques in various industries where education and training for high-risk situations are not
realistic. Additionally, each grantee will be a part of a task force, created by ED with other experts, to raise awareness and help define the study of modeling and simulation. The NIA for the Modeling and Simulation for Postsecondary Students Program contains two absolute priorities. Applicants may only apply under one of the two absolute priorities.

- **Absolute Priority 1: Enhancing Modeling and Simulation at Institutions of Higher Education**
  - Eligible institution applications must include:
    - A letter from their institution’s president or provost stating their commitment to enhancing of modeling and simulation programs at the institution;
    - Designated faculty identified as responsible for improving the institution’s modeling and simulation programs;
    - A comprehensive plan for how grant funds will be used to enhance modeling and simulation programs, ensuring adequate accessibility for students with disabilities;
    - A list of line-item costs linked to task force costs;
    - A 25 percent cost-match commitment for the grant program and;
    - Clearly defined and established modeling and simulation degree programs at the institution.

- **Absolute Priority 2: Establishing Modeling and Simulation Programs**
  - Eligible institution applications must include:
    - A letter from their institution’s president or provost stating their commitment to establishing a modeling and simulation programs at the institution;
    - A comprehensive plan for how grant funds will be used to establish modeling and simulation programs, ensuring adequate accessibility for students with disabilities;
    - A description of how the establishment of a modeling and simulation program will supplement existing programs at the institution.
    - A list of line-item costs linked to task force costs and;
    - A 25 percent cost-match commitment for the grant program

**Due Dates:** Full proposals are due by **December 5, 2021**.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** ED intends to award a total of up to $6.9 million, approximately fifty percent will fund absolute priority one and approximately fifty percent will fund absolute priority two. Awards will range from $750,000 to $1.155 million with an average award size of $866,250 for each project for up to 36 months. Eight grants are expected to be awarded.

**Eligibility and Limitations:** Public and private nonprofit IHEs. The grant requires cost sharing by recipients of at least 25 percent of the award amount.

**Sources and Additional Information:**

Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant Program

The Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant Program works to develop career pathways aligned with high demand industry sectors and jobs to improve postsecondary enrollment, retention, and completion among rural students. Rural students, particularly low-income rural students, may have a more difficult time obtaining opportunities due to their lack of accessibility to transportation, high-speed internet, healthcare, among other challenges. ED believes it is crucial to help better prepare these students with opportunities so that they have the tools and support to transition from secondary into post-secondary education and graduate. This notice inviting applications (NIA) contains one absolute priority that applicants must address and two competitive preference priorities that applicants have the choice of addressing one or both:

- **Absolute Priority 1:** Projects that Increase Postsecondary Access, Affordability, Success, and Completion for Rural Students
  - Increase the number of enrolled rural students, outreach and recruitment in rural communities, support throughout the application process and beforehand through college and career advising.
  - Support the development and implementation of student success programs to help with different areas such as student affairs, financial aid, etc.
  - Support the development and implementation of accessible learning opportunities meeting the unique needs of their geographic environment.
  - Support the development and implementation of strategies to promote the development of rural students in high-need fields of the workforce.
  - Implement a sustainability plan.

- **Competitive Preference Priority 1 (5 points):** Supporting Access to Technology
  - Promote educational equity for rural students through learning models that provide accessibility to technology.

- **Competitive Preference Priority 2 (5 points):** Strengthening Cross-Agency Coordination and Community Engagement to Advance Systemic Change
  - Take a systemic approach to improve the outcomes of rural students through the development of career pathways in in-demand industry sectors of the region in partnership with regional economic development agencies and other regional organizations.

Due Dates: Applications are due by December 5, 2021.

Total Funding and Award Size: ED intends to award up to $9.9 million, with award size ranging from $1.1 million to $1.237 million, with an average award size of $1.2 million. ED expects to make eight awards. Each project is expected to have a period of performance of 36 months. Cost sharing is not required.

Eligibility and Limitations: Public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education (IHEs) with an enrollment of at least 30 percent of students who attended high school in a rural area are eligible to apply.

Sources and Additional Information:

Funding Opportunity: DOD Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) BAA for Disease-carrying Arthropods

The Department of Defense (DOD) Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) is seeking pre-proposals for research on the protection of deployed military from arboviruses carried by pests like bed bugs and filth flies. AFPMB is particularly interested in research concerning arthropod-borne pathogen diseases like Lyme disease, malaria, and dengue fever, among other arboviruses. Pre-proposals should support advanced technology development in the following mission areas:

1) personal protection technology/systems which prevent arthropod bites,
2) new or improved vector control technology/methods/systems, and
3) new active ingredients and formulations of novel public health pesticides.

Full proposal requests will be sent via email if the pre-proposal is selected. Funding will be awarded up to $300,000 per year for three years. State and local governments, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and industry organizations are all eligible to apply. This announcement is open and pre-proposals may be submitted at any time. Prior to submission, proposers are encouraged to discuss their research with AFPMB technical contacts, which can be found in the full BAA on the AFPMB website or on www.grants.gov under funding opportunity number “AFPMB-BAA-22-01.”

Federal Advisory Committee Nomination Opportunities November 9, 2021

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services

BACKGROUND: The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH) is soliciting nominations for the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). PACHA provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on federal programs aimed at preventing and treating HIV and AIDS.

The Council is comprised of 25 members that may serve for up to four years. Members are selected by the HHS Secretary on the basis of HIV/AIDS and public health expertise, as well as national or community leadership, among other factors. Nominees with lived HIV experience and/or from minority backgrounds will also be considered for selection. Nominees should demonstrate accomplishments that greatly contribute to PACHA’s objectives. Federal employees are not eligible to apply. PACHA members will not receive stipends for their service but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses related to their Council duties.

AUTHORITY: The Council was established by Executive Order 12963, dated June 14, 1995, as amended by Executive Order 13009, dated June 14, 1996.
APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations for PACHA membership must be received by January 3, 2022, at 8:00 PM ET. All nominations must be submitted via email to PACHA@hhs.gov.

Equity Commission Advisory Committee and Equity Commission Subcommittee on Agriculture (UPDATE)

AGENCY: United States Department of Agriculture

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced its plan to establish an Equity Commission (EC), which will include a Subcommittee on Agriculture. EC will be regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and will identify USDA “programs, policies, systems, and structures” that present barriers to the participation of diverse populations, promote systemic discrimination, or worsen “racial, economic, health, and social disparities.” EC’s Subcommittee on Agriculture will provide counsel for USDA program optimization, and on ways to combat structural inequity and discrimination, as well as promote social justice for communities traditionally underserved by the USDA.

EC serves strictly as an advisory body to the Secretary of Agriculture and will produce an interim report on problems related to accessing USDA programs for marginalized communities “no later than 12 months after inception.” EC will also produce a final report on the same concept within a two-year term. EC anticipates that meetings will begin during the Winter of 2021/2022 and will meet up to four times per year. All meetings will be open to the public.

USDA seeks nominees with diverse backgrounds and expertise including but not limited to women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as professionals from small businesses, higher education institutions, and farmworker groups. Appointees to EC will serve a two-year term and can be reappointed for up to two more terms. EC will be comprised of 15 members, and include:

- Two representatives from community-based organizations in underrepresented communities;
- Two representatives with policy design and evaluation expertise;
- One public relations or communications expert;
- One civil rights expert;
- One representative with expertise in organizational diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- One economist with expertise in social policy and economic disparities;
- One historian;
- One legal expert; and
- Three experts in related issues that the Secretary of Agriculture deems appropriate.

Nominees to the Subcommittee on Agriculture should have knowledge on the USDA and “agriculture, federal farming, conservation, and extension programs”, as well as come from a diverse agricultural background. The Subcommittee on Agriculture will be comprised of 15 members, including two members of the EC, and include:

- Three farmers or ranchers;
- Two university research professionals from minority-serving institutions (MSIs);
- Two members of community-based organizations;
- One representative from the agricultural industry;
• One representative of farmworker groups;
• One civil rights and equity expert; and
• Three individuals selected by the Secretary of Agriculture.

AUTHORITY: Section 1006 (a)(3) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 directed the creation of an Equity Commission within the USDA.


APPLICATIONS DUE (UPDATE): The nomination application period for membership on USDA’s Equity Commission Advisory Committee and Equity Commission Subcommittee has been extended from October 27, 2021, to November 30, 2021. Nominations submitted by email must be sent to EquityCommission@usda.gov.

The extension notice can be found at https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-23826.

Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals – Ad Hoc Expert Reviewers to Participate in Early 2022 Reviews

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

BACKGROUND: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public nominations for scientific experts to serve as ad hoc reviewers of two peer reviewed topics for the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC). SACC supports activities related to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and provides independent counsel to the EPA on the risk assessments, methodologies, and pollution prevention measures for TSCA regulated chemicals.

SACC is generally comprised of 17 members who are toxicology and environmental risk assessment experts, as well as scientist in related fields such as synthetic biology, pharmacology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and biochemistry. Ad hoc reviewers assist the Committee with specific expertise in related areas not generally covered by the existing members. Nominees to this solicitation can apply to review the “TSCA systematic review protocol”, or the draft “TSCA screening level approach for assessing ambient air and water exposures to fence line communities.” Those nominated to review the “TSCA systematic review protocol” will assess TSCA related processes that have been revised to include peer-reviewed comments from SACC reviews of chemical risk evaluation, as well as recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). Nominees applying to review the draft “TSCA screening level approach for assessing ambient air and water exposures to fence line communities” will address potential air and water exposure to fence line communities that are generally excluded from Agency statues and protections.

This solicitation may be of particular interest to individuals involved in the “manufacture, processing, distribution, and disposal of chemical substances and mixtures,” or those interested in the risks associated with chemical substances and mixtures. To review either TSCA draft, nominees should have expertise in the following areas:

• **Systematic review**: Nominees should have a comprehensive understanding of the TSCA risk evaluation process. Nominees should also have expertise in systematic review approaches of human health and ecological hazard, as well as experience in engineering, machine learning, artificial intelligence and/or natural language processing techniques associated with systematic review. Experience with
systematic review software, the Health and Environmental Research Online (HERO) database, and Health Assessment Workspace Collaborative (HAWC) is preferred.

- **Exposures to fence line communities:** Nominees seeking to review this draft TSCA screening level approach should have expertise in “chemical fate and transportation via air and water pathways; the atmospheric modeling of fate, transport, and human exposures; human health, exposure, and risk assessment for airborne or waterborne chemicals; estimating environmental air releases of chemicals from different sources and databases; developing air dispersion methodologies and/or models to estimate ambient air concentrations and impacts to human populations; estimating environmental water releases of chemicals from different sources and databases; developing methodologies and models to estimate chemical concentrations in ambient/source/drinking water and impacts to human populations; and public health protection for at-risk communities.”

Reviewers will be selected on the basis of professional qualifications, training, relevant expertise, and experience. The nominee’s availability, conflicts of interest, impartiality, independence, and biases will all also be factors for consideration.

**AUTHORITY:** SACC was established by the EPA in 2016 under the authority of the Frank R. Launtenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, Public Law 114-182, 140 Stat. 448 (2016). The Committee’s use of ad hoc reviewers is authorized under 15 U.S.C. 2625 et seq.; 5 U.S.C. appendix 2 et seq.

**NOTICE:** [https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-23362](https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-23362).

**APPLICATIONS DUE:** Nominations are due by **November 17, 2021**.