

**Preliminary Draft Proposal for SRA Platform Topic
December 2017, Arlington Va**

SRA ROUNDTABLE RULES (Deadline May 31)

“A roundtable addresses a high-visibility topic of special interest in a 90-minute panel discussion format.

Only a small number can be considered per space and schedule constraints. The organizer submits an abstract that describes the topic and what the audience should expect to gain from the discussion; the organizer also lists the moderator, panelists, and their emails.”

Draft Title: What is the Optimal Approach to Organizing Governmental Risk-Related Science Advisory Processes

Draft Abstract (maximum is 2,000 characters - approx. 300 words)

Recent ~~controversial~~ activities by both Congress and by EPA Administrator Pruitt provide an opportunity to ~~evaluate approaches for~~ rethink the appropriate approach to organizing risk-related scientific advisory processes for regulatory agencies. The EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act (title of bill) has been passed by the US House of Representatives and is awaiting action in the US Senate, which may or may not be forthcoming. ~~(briefly describe Act and announced EPA actions).~~ These have generated media interest and controversy and some have characterized these actions as unnecessarily politicizing science and decreasing the likelihood of the involvement of knowledgeable academic scientists in EPA review processes. Others have pointed out that there's a need to ~~The rationale for these implementing changes in the advisor panels related to~~ broadening scientific representation in diverse fields, and to improve procedures for balancing perspectives and perceived biases on EPA scientific advisory panels. ~~changes is the perception that EPA advisory processes for selection of scientists and for interaction of the scientists with EPA staff have inappropriately skewed the interpretation of the science underlying risk-related regulations in favor of overly aggressive actions inimical to the US economy. On the other hand, the congressional Act and Administrator Pruitt's actions have been criticized for being overly friendly to industry interests and for politicizing the scientific advisory process. While the current controversy will not be totally avoided,~~ The Roundtable participants will be asked to focus on the underlying principles that should guide the science advisory processes for the optimal provision of scientific advice on risk-related issues to a regulatory agency.