

# SMI

## SORPTIVE MINERALS INSTITUTE

May 28, 2004

Dr. Margo Schwab  
Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
New Executive Office Building, Room 10201  
Washington, DC 20503

Dr. Schwab:

The members of the Sorptive Minerals Institute (SMI), the industry trade association representing the manufacturers and marketers of absorbent clay products, would like to voice their support for the proposed guidance requiring meaningful peer review of the most important science disseminated by the Federal Government.

Peer review has long been recognized as playing a critical role in evaluating scientific or technical work. Scientists count on peer review to ensure that all available scientific information is considered and that the technical data, methodologies, assumptions, calculations and conclusions contained in that information are accurate. Government agencies have long considered the peer review process to be an integral part in the development of agency assessments, evaluations and decisions. It has been our experience however, that these reviews have not always been as thorough as one might hope.

We are in agreement with many of the comments contained in the April 28, 2004 Revised Bulletin. We are especially pleased with your attempts to create a more transparent process for public participation in the peer review process. As an organization that expends a great deal of time and resources on scientific research related to our products, the members of SMI welcome the opportunity to share our work and to have input into ensuring that government regulations are based on thoroughly peer-reviewed science.

The members of the Sorptive Minerals Institute support the proposed guidelines and commend OMB and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for proposing these changes.

Sincerely,



Lee Coogan  
Executive Director