

Removal of EPA's "CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel (2015-2018)" Webpage

Website Monitoring Mini-report

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The purpose of "mini-reports" is to inform journalists, experts, and the public about a reported or developing news story. A "mini-report" is a condensed version of one of the Web Integrity Project's [website monitoring reports](#), created on a rapid timeline to explain a narrowly scoped alteration, and is not a comprehensive analysis of a website.

Summary of findings: On October 11, the publication date of a [New York Times piece](#) linking the EPA's "CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel (2015-2018)" page (Webpage 1), that page was removed. The CASAC "Committees and Membership" page (Webpage 2), which had previously linked that page, was also altered that day to remove that link and an additional link.

Webpage 1:

Page title: CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel (2015-2018)

Page status: Removed

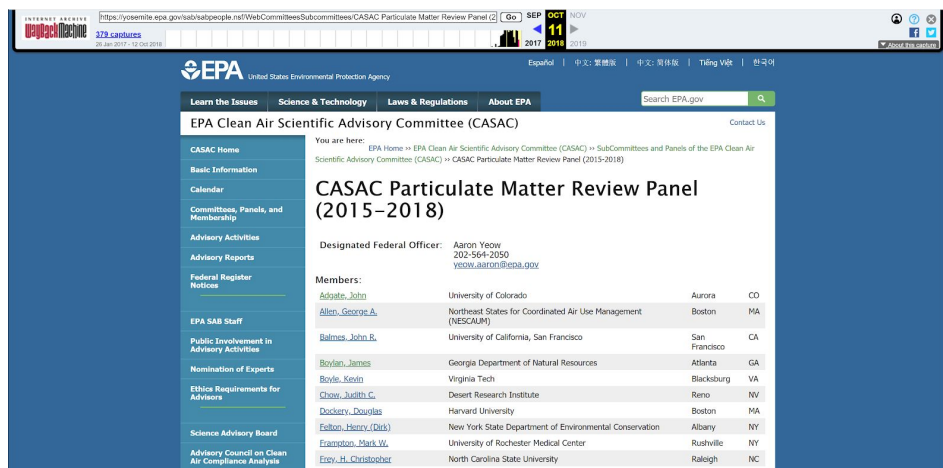
- Before: [October 11, 2018, 8:38 AM ET](#)
- After: [October 12, 2018, 3:17 AM ET](#)

URL: [https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabpeople.nsf/WebCommitteesSubcommittees/CASAC%20Particulate%20Matter%20Review%20Panel%20\(2015-2018\)](https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabpeople.nsf/WebCommitteesSubcommittees/CASAC%20Particulate%20Matter%20Review%20Panel%20(2015-2018))

Description of change:

1. The URL now returns, depending on the browser used, the text "HTTP Web Server: IBM Notes Exception - Entry not found in index" or "Http Status Code: 400 [two lines down] Reason: Http request contains a malformed escape sequence".
2. Previously, the URL hosted a page containing: 1) the name and contact information of the Particulate Matter Review Panel's "Designated Federal Officer," 2) a list of all of the panel's members and the institutions where they work, and 3) links to bios for each of the panel members.

Screenshot: A portion of the [October 11, 2018](#) version of the page, as captured by the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine.



The screenshot shows the EPA website interface for the CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel (2015-2018). The page includes a navigation menu on the left, a search bar, and a main content area with the following information:

EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)

You are here: EPA Home > EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) > SubCommittees and Panels of the EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) > CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel (2015-2018)

CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel (2015-2018)

Designated Federal Officer: Aaron Yeow
202-564-2050
yeow.aaron@epa.gov

Members:

Alyssa, John	University of Colorado	Aurora	CO
Allen, George A.	Northwest States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCALM)	Boston	MA
Balmes, John B.	University of California, San Francisco	San Francisco	CA
Boylan, James	Georgia Department of Natural Resources	Atlanta	GA
Boyle, Kevin	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg	VA
Chow, Judith C.	Desert Research Institute	Reno	NV
Docket, Douglas	Harvard University	Boston	MA
Fellon, Harry (Dick)	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Albany	NY
Frankton, Mark W.	University of Rochester Medical Center	Rushville	NY
Fry, H. Christopher	North Carolina State University	Raleigh	NC

Webpage 2:

Page title: Committees and Membership

Page status: Altered

- Before: [October 11, 2018, 8:35 AM ET](#)
- After: [October 12, 2018, 3:26 AM ET](#)

URL: <https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/WebCASAC/CommitteesandMembership?OpenDocument>

Description of change:

1. The link, with link text “CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel (2015-2018)” and link URL for Webpage 1, was removed.
2. The following text was removed: “The SAB Staff Office is currently forming an ad hoc CASAC Panel to address the following topic:”
3. The link that followed the above text, with link text “Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Review” and link URL “https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/fedrgstr_activites/OzoneIRP?OpenDocument&TableRow=2.1,” was removed.
 - a. The removed “Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Review” link leads to a live page that lists the same EPA Designated Federal Officer (DFO) listed on Webpage 1.

Screenshot: A side-by-side comparison of the [October 11, 2018](#) and [October 12, 2018](#) versions of the page, as captured by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine. Red highlights indicate removed content.

