

Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics
The Johns Hopkins University

THE THIRD JOHN C. AND SUSAN S. G. WIERMAN LECTURE

Barry D. Nussbaum
Chief Statistician
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

May 1, 2008
Lecture: 4:00 p.m.
in 213 Hodson Hall
Reception follows
in 304 Whitehead Hall

**GREENHOUSE, WHITE HOUSE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS:
THE USE OF STATISTICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION MAKING**

ABSTRACT

Statistics and the statistician play an enormous role in the initiation, analysis, and implementation of environmental policy and decisions. Yet, frequently after elaborate analyses, it is “only the facts” that are requested, or only a concise review of the analysis. Using a number of examples, the speaker will describe how frequently it is a relatively simple description of statistical analyses, when presented truly effectively (and often humorously), that can have a large impact on decision making. The speaker will also demonstrate the growing need to review the quality of large acquired data bases. This presentation includes several real examples from relatively simple surveys, analyses, and reviews with applications in regulation development, court cases, and policy making. One of the examples even landed on the desk of the President of the United States.