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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6477-4]

Nominations for Peer Reviewers for Toxicological Testing Initiative for Styrene Acrylonitrile Trimer

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response has retained the Eastern Research Group (ERG) to conduct a scientific peer review of the proposed toxicological testing initiative and associated experimental protocols for styrene acrylonitrile trimer (SAN₂), a contaminant at the Reich Farm Superfund site in Ocean County, New Jersey, which has migrated into the ground water. The peer review workshop is being organized to assist in conducting the most scientifically credible and relevant testing for carcinogenicity of the trimer, particularly during the perinatal period, and for chronic non-cancer health effects. It is tentatively scheduled to be held in late February or early March 2000, in Toms River, New Jersey, and will be open to members of the public as observers. It will be a one-day meeting and will be conducted in accordance with EPA's 1998 Peer Review Handbook. ERG is seeking nominations of highly qualified scientists with expertise in one or more of the following nine disciplines: general toxicology, carcinogenesis, developmental toxicology, neurotoxicity, pharmacokinetics, genetic toxicology, veterinary pathology, biostatistics, and analytical chemistry. ERG will select 10-13 objective peer reviewers based upon demonstrated expertise of the scientists and the need for balance in affiliation among the peer reviewers. ERG will consider potential conflicts of interest in screening nominees for suitability as peer reviewers. All nominations will be carefully considered, but the source of peer reviewer nominations will not be a factor in the selection of peer reviewers, and stakeholders are not guaranteed that any of their nominees will be selected. A second **Federal Register** document will be published about one month prior to the peer review workshop to provide the actual meeting date, location, and registration information.

DATES: Nominations for peer reviewers must be submitted December 20, 1999.

A detailed resume for each nominated scientist should be included with the submission. The projected date for the peer review workshop is late February or early March 2000, depending on the availability of the peer reviewers.

ADDRESSES: Peer reviewer nominations should be sent to Ms Meg Vrablik at Eastern Research Group, 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02421. Peer reviewer nominations may also be submitted by facsimile at 781-674-2906, or by E-mail at mvrablik@erg.com. The peer review workshop will be held in Toms River, New Jersey.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical and logistical inquiries, contact Ms. Vrablik or Ms. Kate Schalk at Eastern Research Group, by telephone, at 781-674-7272; by facsimile, at 781-674-2906; or by E-mail, at mvrablik@erg.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Spent process streams from the manufacture of styrene acrylonitrile polymer by Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) were disposed of at the Reich Farm property in Ocean County, New Jersey. The waste contains SAN₂ trimer, a chemical mixture which has migrated from the Reich Farm property into groundwater. Levels of SAN₂ trimer measured in water drawn from groundwater wells have been in the parts per billion and lower. The site is on the National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites, and remedial activities are currently underway.

Increased incidences of certain forms of cancer in children, specifically types of leukemia and neurological cancers, have been observed in Ocean County, Dover Township and Toms River. To develop scientific data on the toxicologic and carcinogenic potential of the SAN trimer and to address concerns of citizens in the area about the toxicity of this previously untested mixture, Union Carbide undertook an initial round of toxicology experiments, which consisted of genotoxicity studies, an acute toxicity study in rats and a 14-day repeated dose study in rats. The results from these studies are now available.

The Workgroup for the Toxicity Testing of the SAN₂ Trimer was formed to provide guidance to Union Carbide on the testing of the SAN₂ trimer. In late 1998 the National Toxicology Program (NTP) of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences joined the workgroup based upon its commitment to perform rodent carcinogenicity studies which include perinatal exposures. The current

governmental agencies represented on the workgroup are the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, NTP, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Representatives of Union Carbide Corporation and the consultant representing the Ocean County Department of Health also participate in the workgroup.

The workgroup has met four times since November 1998, evaluating the results of the studies previously performed by UCC, and reviewing additional studies proposed to be performed by the NTP and UCC. The Workgroup has developed a consensus testing strategy with associated experimental protocols. A key step in the finalization of this testing strategy will be an external peer review, in the form of a workshop, to be held in late February or early March 2000.

The peer review will focus on existing data pertaining to the toxicology of the SAN₂ trimer, the proposed additional studies and associated protocols, and the variability in composition of the different batches of SAN₂ trimer isolated to date from spent process streams. Following the peer review workshop, ERG will issue a report summarizing the workshop. The Workgroup for the Toxicity Testing of the SAN₂ Trimer will consider the results of the workshop prior to finalizing the testing initiative and experimental protocols.

Dated: November 8, 1999.

Timothy Fields, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-34208; FRL-6394-7]

Methidathion and Oxydemethon-Methyl, Revised Pesticide Risk Assessments; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA will hold a public meeting to present the revised risk assessments for two organophosphate pesticides, methidathion and oxydemethon-methyl, to interested stakeholders. This public meeting, called a "Technical Briefing," will provide an opportunity for stakeholders