

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

It is the policy of the Science Advisory Board to accept written public comments of any length, and to accommodate oral public comments whenever possible. The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. *Oral Comments:* In general, each individual or group requesting an oral presentation at a face-to-face meeting will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For teleconference meetings, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total. Deadlines for getting on the public speaker list for a meeting are given above. Speakers should bring at least 35 copies of their comments and presentation slides for distribution to the reviewers and public at the meeting. *Written Comments:* Although the SAB accepts written comments until the date of the meeting (unless otherwise stated), written comments should be received in the SAB Staff Office at least one week prior to the meeting date so that the comments may be made available to the committee for their consideration. Comments should be supplied to the appropriate DFO at the address/contact information noted above in the following formats: one hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format: WordPerfect, Word, or Rich Text files (in IBM-PC/Windows 95/98 format). Those providing written comments and who attend the meeting are also asked to bring 25 copies of their comments for public distribution.

General Information—Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) and in The FY1999 Annual Report of the Staff Director which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 564-4533 or via fax at (202) 501-0256. Committee rosters, draft Agendas and meeting calendars are also located on our website.

Meeting Access—Individuals requiring special accommodation at this meeting, including wheelchair access to the conference room, should contact the DFO at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: November 9, 2000.

Donald G. Barnes,

Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.

[FR Doc. 00-29644 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6904-7]

Draft Benchmark Dose Technical Guidance Document

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of Peer-Review Workshop and Public Comment Period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing that Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), an EPA contractor for external scientific peer review, will organize, convene, and conduct an external peer-review workshop to review the draft document titled: "Benchmark Dose Technical Guidance Document" (EPA/630/R-00/001). The EPA is also announcing a 30-day public comment period for the draft document. The document was prepared by an EPA Risk Assessment Forum Technical Panel. The Technical Panel will consider the peer-review and public comment submissions in finalizing the document.

DATES: The peer-review workshop will begin on Thursday, December 7, 2000, at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m., then reconvene Friday, December 8, 2000, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Members of the public may attend as observers, and there will be a limited time for comments from the public. The 30-day public comment period begins November 20, 2000, and ends December 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The external peer-review workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Capital, 550 C Street SW, Washington DC 20024. To attend the workshop register by November 30, 2000 by calling ERG at (781) 674-7374 or send a facsimile to (781) 674-2906. You may also register on the Internet at <http://www.erg.com/conferences/index.htm>, or by E-mail at confmail@erg.com. Space is limited, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a limited time for comments from the public during the workshop. Please let ERG know if you wish to make comments.

The draft "Benchmark Dose Technical Guidance Document" is available primarily via the Internet at [http://www.epa.gov/nea/bnchmrk/bmds-](http://www.epa.gov/nea/bnchmrk/bmds-peer.htm)

[peer.htm](http://www.epa.gov/nea/bnchmrk/bmds-peer.htm). A limited number of paper copies are available from the Technical Information Staff (8623D), NCEA-W; telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050. If you are requesting a paper copy, please provide your name, mailing address, and the document title, draft "Benchmark Dose Technical Guidance Document." Copies are not available from ERG. Comments may be mailed to the Technical Information Staff (8623D), NCEA-W, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, or delivered to the Technical Information Staff at 808 17th Street, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20006; telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050. Comments should be in writing and must be postmarked by December 20, 2000. Please submit one unbound original with pages numbered consecutively, and three copies of the comments. For attachments, provide an index, number pages consecutively with the comments, and submit an unbound original and three copies. Electronic comments may be emailed to: nceadc.comment@epa.gov.

Please note that all technical comments received in response to this notice will be placed in a public record. For that reason, commentators should not submit personal information (such as medical data or home address), Confidential Business Information, or information protected by copyright. Due to limited resources, acknowledgments will not be sent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For workshop information, registration, and logistics, contact ERG, 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173; telephone: (781) 674-7374; facsimile: (781) 674-2906.

For information on the public comment period, contact Marilyn Brower, Risk Assessment Forum Staff; telephone: 202-564-3363; facsimile: 202-565-0062; or email: brower.marilyn@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. EPA conducts risk assessments for an array of health effects that may result from exposure to environmental agents and that require an analysis of the relationship between exposure and health-related outcomes. The dose-response assessment can be approached as a two-step process, the first being the definition of a point of departure (POD) and the second extrapolation from the POD to low environmentally-relevant exposure levels. The benchmark dose (BMD) approach provides a more quantitative alternative to the first step in the dose-response assessment than the current no-observed-adverse-effect-

level/lowest-observed-adverse-effect-level (NOAEL/LOAEL) process for noncancer health effects and can be applied to determining the POD proposed for cancer endpoints (EPA, 1996). As the Agency moves toward harmonization of approaches for cancer and noncancer risk assessment, the dichotomy between cancer and noncancer health effects is being replaced by consideration of mode of action and whether the effects of concern are likely to be linear or nonlinear at low doses. Thus, the purpose of this document is to provide guidance for the Agency on the application of the BMD approach in determining the POD, whether a linear or nonlinear low dose extrapolation is used.

The document addresses a number of issues that must be resolved in order to apply the BMD approach for dose-response assessment in a consistent manner. These issues include: (1) Determination of appropriate studies and endpoints on which to base BMD calculations; (2) selection of the benchmark response (BMR) value; (3) choice of the model to use in computing the BMD; (4) details surrounding computation of the confidence limit for the BMD (BMDL); and (5) reporting requirements for BMD and BMDL computation.

Since the methods for BMD computation require appropriate software, another purpose of this document is to provide enough information about preferred computational algorithms to allow users to make an informed choice in the selection of that software. The document does not advocate use of any particular software package, although it is recommended that software with well documented algorithms, such as the Agency's BMD software (BMDS) package, be used. Nor is this guidance intended to document any particular software package, although it will present examples for illustrative purposes that use the Agency's BMDS package. It is also expected that this guidance will inform the design of studies for the computation of BMDs and dose-response analysis, though this will not be covered explicitly. The terminology used in the document is consistent with the EPA's BMDS. This software is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/bmds.htm>.

The Risk Assessment Forum has been active in promoting research and discussion on BMD issues since 1990. In 1993 the Risk Assessment Forum sponsored a colloquium on the applications of BMD methods to noncancer risk assessment. The focus of

this colloquium was to review a Forum draft report that outlined the techniques and presented the major questions and decisions involved in applying the BMD method. Following this a technical panel published a background document on the use of BMD in health risk assessment (EPA/630/R-94/007). In the ensuing years the Forum sponsored several workshops and symposia on the BMD approach, including a 1996 external peer review on an earlier draft of the document presently undergoing review. Following this external peer review, the Technical Panel will consider reviewers' and public comments in finalizing the document.

This document is intended to be updated as new information becomes available that would suggest approaches and default options alternative or additional to those indicated here and should not be viewed as precluding additional research on modified or alternative approaches that will improve quantitative risk assessment.

Dated: November 9, 2000.

William H. Farland,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 00-29648 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6902-7]

Proposed Settlement Under Section 122(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as Amended, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h), CHEMCENTRAL Warehouse Fire CERCLA Site, Kent, WA

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act ("CERCLA"), notice is hereby given of a proposed settlement to resolve a claim against CHEMCENTRAL Corporation. The proposed settlement concerns the federal government's past response costs at the CHEMCENTRAL Warehouse Fire CERCLA Site, Kent, Washington. The settlement requires the settling party, CHEMCENTRAL Corporation, to pay \$24,066.34 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund. For thirty (30) days

following the date of publication of this document, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the settlement. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, office at 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101. A copy of the proposed settlement may be obtained from Mary Shillcutt, Regional Hearing Clerk, EPA, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101, telephone number (206) 553-2429. Comments should reference the "CHEMCENTRAL Warehouse Fire CERCLA Site" and EPA Docket No. CERCLA-10-2001-0006 and should be addressed to Ms. Shillcutt at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer G. MacDonald, Assistant Regional Counsel, EPA Region 10, Office of Regional Counsel, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101, telephone number (206) 553-8311.

Dated: November 8, 2000.

Charles E. Findley,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10.

[FR Doc. 00-29357 Filed 11-17-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-51956; FRL-6754-1]

Certain New Chemicals; Correction

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: EPA is issuing this notice to correct the Test Marketing Exemption T-00-0006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barbara Cunningham, Director, Office of Program Management and Evaluation, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7401), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 554-1404; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. As such, the Agency has not attempted to describe the specific entities that this action may apply to. Although others may be affected, this action applies directly to the submitter of the premanufacture notices addressed in the action. If you have any questions