

series of colloquia that inaugurated the Forum guidelines development effort.

- Framework for Ecological Risk Assessment (EPA/630/R-92/001). The peer-reviewed Framework Report describes basic concepts and terminology for the ecological risk assessment process.

- A Review of Ecological Case Studies from a Risk Assessment Perspective (EPA/630/R-92/005) and A Review of Ecological Case Studies from a Risk Assessment Perspective Volume 2 (EPA/630/R-94/003). These reports contain 17 peer-reviewed case studies that explore the relationship between the ecological risk assessment process described in the Framework Report and several types of ecological assessment.

- Ecological Risk Assessment Issue Papers (EPA/630/R-94/009) and Peer Review Workshop Report on Ecological Risk Assessment Issue Papers (EPA/630/R-94/008). Some issue paper topics correspond directly to sections of EPA's ecological risk assessment framework (conceptual model development, characterization of exposure, effects characterization, and risk integration methods), while others focus on cross-cutting issues (ecological significance, biological stressors, ecological recovery, uncertainty, and ascertaining public values in ecological risk assessment). The issue papers were revised based on comments received at an August, 1994 peer review workshop. The scientific background information in the papers will help provide a bridge between the basic concepts described in the Framework Report and the more substantial ecological risk assessment guidelines.

Work on the first ecological risk guideline, based on an expansion of the ecological risk framework, was recently initiated. As with previously published human health risk guidelines, the new ecological risk assessment guideline is intended to improve the quality of EPA's risk assessments, promote Agency-wide consistency; and inform the scientific community and the public. Guidelines are not rules for those outside of the Agency; they are intended primarily for use by EPA and contractors doing work for the Agency. While guidelines address major issues of concern, they do not provide detailed "how tos" or contain extensive background material for novice readers. Finally, guidelines are not program-specific; it is left to individual programs within EPA (e.g., Superfund, pesticides) to adapt the Agency-wide guidelines to their own needs.

Dated: March 27, 1995.

Robert J. Huggett,

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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[OPP-00406; FRL-4948-3]

Guidance on Issuance of Worker Protection Standard Enforcement Actions in Response to Personal Protective Equipment Violations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On February 13, 1995, the Agency distributed its "Summary Guidance on Issuance of WPS Enforcement Actions" which applied to any violations of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). EPA was recently asked to distribute further guidance specific to enforcement of the personal protective equipment (PPE) provisions of the WPS. In response, the Agency developed guidance which applies to PPE violations the 10 factors which EPA recommends be considered in determining the appropriate recipients of WPS enforcement actions. This guidance was distributed to EPA Regional Offices on March 30, 1995, for transmittal to state pesticide enforcement personnel, the intended audience for the guidance. EPA is publishing the March 30th guidance at the request of a state organization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia L. Sims, Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, 2245A, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: (202) 564-4048.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

EPA is providing this document in response to requests made for specific guidance concerning enforcement of the PPE provisions of the FIFRA WPS. This summary guidance is organized according to the 10 factors to be considered in determining the appropriate recipients of WPS enforcement actions, and employers'/owners/operators' PPE responsibilities.

II. Ten Factors for Consideration

EPA recommends that accountability for compliance with the FIFRA WPS be decided on a common sense, case-by-case basis. "Summary Guidance on Issuance of WPS Enforcement Actions,"

provided February 1995, identifies the following 10 factors which EPA recommends States consider when they need to determine the appropriate recipient(s) of a WPS enforcement action:

1. Who has control over pesticide use;
2. Who directs pesticide use;
3. Who has control over the agricultural establishment for posting and other WPS-related responsibilities;
4. Who gives direction on the agricultural establishment for posting and other WPS-related responsibilities;
5. Who has control over the practices used by agricultural workers on the establishment;
6. Who directs the practices used by agricultural workers on the establishment;
7. Measures taken to comply with provisions of the WPS;
8. Actions taken in response to incidents of noncompliance;
9. History of prior violations; and
10. Ability to assure continuing compliance with the WPS.

Documentation by employers/owners/operators could assist them in demonstrating to State regulatory officials, their efforts to comply and responses to instances of noncompliance. The totality of the circumstances should be considered in each case. The 10 factors are not listed in any order of priority; each factor should be appropriately considered in every case.

III. Employers/Owners/Operators PPE Responsibilities

The 10 factors should be considered if an employee (including workers and handlers) does not use PPE required by the WPS. It is essential for employers'/owners/operators to take an active role to assure that PPE is used.

The employer/owner/operator bears primary responsibility for WPS PPE compliance. Employers'/owners/operators must provide, clean and maintain PPE, and instruct employees on its proper use. The employer/owner/operator has a responsibility to inform employees who do not use their PPE that such clothing or protective gear is required. In the case of pesticide handlers, the responsibility to follow label directions and use PPE properly is a shared one with the employer.

The employer/owner/operator also has a responsibility to take appropriate actions if an agricultural employee does not comply with instructions to use PPE. If an employee does not use WPS required PPE, appropriate supervisory actions that could be taken by the employer/owner/operator to achieve compliance include warnings and

nondiscriminatory discipline. If an employer/owner/operator provides employees with appropriate PPE, training and supervision per the specifications of the WPS, there should not arise an occasion on which the employer/owner/operator would be subject to a WPS/PPE enforcement action due to the individual decision of an agricultural employee not to use the PPE.

Enforcement officials will consider the facts of a case before determining how to respond to any WPS violation, consistent with the 10 factors identified in the Agency's February 1995 summary WPS enforcement guidance. EPA recommends that accountability for compliance be decided on a common sense basis, and that the totality of the circumstances be considered in each case, including enforcement actions in response to PPE violations.

Dated: April 4, 1995.

Jesse Baskerville,

Director, Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

[FR Doc. 95-8726 Filed 4-7-95; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5187-3]

The Use of the Benchmark Dose Approach in Health Risk Assessment

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a report titled *The Use of the Benchmark Dose Approach in Health Risk Assessment* (EPA/630/R-94/007). This report was developed to serve as a background document for discussing benchmark dose applications to noncancer risk assessment.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a single copy of the report, interested parties should contact the ORD Publications Office, CERL, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268, Tel: (513) 569-7562, Fax: (513) 569-7566. Please provide your name and mailing address, and request the document by the title and EPA number (EPA/630/R-94/007).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clare Stine, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (8101), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: (202) 260-6743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For almost 10 years, scientists have been studying the benchmark dose (BMD) as a promising technique for the quantitative

assessment of noncancer health effects. The information presented in this report is one step in developing the basis for an EPA consensus on the role of benchmark methods in the quantitative assessment of noncancer health risk. The report presents a basic overview of the benchmark method, which may provide an additional quantitative approach to current EPA practice.

The document focuses especially on critical decisions that must be made in deriving a BMD and applying the BMD in risk assessment. Major decisions in using the BMD are explained, and the sensitivity of the final result to each assumption is evaluated. The document also identifies many unresolved issues in benchmark dose application and identifies research that may help resolve some of these issues.

Dated: March 24, 1995.

Robert J. Huggett,

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 95-8738 Filed 4-7-95; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5187-4]

Report on the Technical Review Workshop on the Reference Dose for Aroclor 1016

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a report titled *Technical Review Workshop on the Reference Dose for Aroclor 1016* (EPA/630/R-94/006). This report compiles discussions from a technical review workshop on the reference dose for Aroclor 1016, which was held in Washington, DC, on May 24-25, 1994.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a single copy of the report, interested parties should contact the ORD Publications Office, CERL, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268, Tel: (513) 569-7562, Fax: (513) 569-7566. Please provide your name and mailing address, and request the document by the title and EPA number (EPA/630/R-94/006).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clare Stine, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (8101), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: (202) 260-6743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This report includes information and materials from a technical review workshop organized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Risk

Assessment Forum for the Agency's Reference Dose/Reference Concentration (RfD/RfC) Work Group. The meeting was held in Washington, DC, at the Barcelo Washington Hotel on May 24-25, 1994 (59 FR 23202).

EPA convened a balanced panel of experts from the fields of qualitative and quantitative effects of PCBs in humans and animals, perinatal toxicity, neurobehavioral effects, and hazard and risk evaluation for data on health effects other than cancer. EPA sought comments from these experts on the IRIS entry and related scientific sources. Reviewers at the workshop were asked to evaluate whether the reference dose fully considered available data and if scientifically responsible data analyses were clearly articulated in the IRIS data base entry. Reviewers approved some features of the IRIS entry, and recommended additional review and analysis for others.

This report collects workshop papers, including summary statements prepared by the chairperson for each workshop topic. Workshop participants contributed useful recommendations for the Agency's Reference Dose/Reference Concentration Work Group to consider in re-evaluating the RfD entry on IRIS.

Dated: March 24, 1995.

Robert J. Huggett,

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 95-8737 Filed 4-7-95; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5187-2]

Report on the Workshop on Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines Issues

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a report titled *Report on the Workshop on Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines Issues* (EPA/630/R-94/005a). This report compiles discussions from a technical review workshop on the draft document titled *Draft Revisions to the Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment* (External Review Draft; EPA/600/BP-92/003). Highlights of reviewers' pre-meeting comments on the draft document are included in the workshop report; copies of reviewers' comments in their entirety are available from the National Technical Information Service.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a single copy of the workshop report, interested parties should contact the ORD Publications Office, CERL, U.S. Environmental