

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

#### Contract Review Meeting

In accordance with Section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), announcement is made of the following technical review committee to meet during the month of August 1998.

*Name:* Technical Review Committee of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household and Medical Provider Components.

*Date and Time:* August 25, 1998, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

*Place:* Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, Executive Office Center, 6th Floor Conference Room, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

This meeting will be closed to the public.

*Purpose:* The Technical Review Committee's charge is to provide, on behalf of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCP) Contracts Review Committee, recommendations to the Administrator, AHCP, regarding the technical merit of contract proposals submitted in response to a specific Request for Proposals regarding the AHCP Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) Household and Medical Provider Components, announced in the Commerce Business Daily on April 6, 1998.

This contract will continue the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research's operations in support of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household and Medical Provider Components. This effort consists of simultaneous data collection and data preparation activities.

The purpose of MEPS is to provide policymakers, health care administrators, businesses, researchers and others with timely, comprehensive information about health care use and costs in the United States. MEPS is unparalleled for the degree of detail in its data as well as its ability to link health expenditure and health insurance information to the demographic, employment and health status characteristics of survey respondents. Moreover, MEPS is the only national survey that provides a foundation for estimating the impact of changes in source of payment and insurance coverage on different economic groups or special populations such as the poor, elderly, families, veterans, the uninsured, and racial and ethnic minorities. The MEPS consists of several components: the Household Component (HC), Medical Provider Component (MPC), Insurance Component (IC) and the Nursing Home Component (NHC).

The objective of the MEPS Household Component and the Medical Provider Component is to produce mean and distributional estimates, at both national and regional levels, representing calendar year and cross-sectional time points for a variety

of health related measures. These data are particularly important because they can be generalized to the entire civilian noninstitutionalized population, and because the survey design permits the conduct of research where families as well as individuals are the units of analysis.

Because of its uniqueness and importance, AHCP is committed to the timely dissemination of all MEPS data products and micro data files. The timely dissemination, release and dissemination of such products and files is of the utmost importance to the overall success of the MEPS project.

*Agenda:* The Committee meeting will be devoted entirely to the technical review and evaluation of contract proposals submitted in response to the above-referenced Request for Proposals. The Administrator, AHCP, has made a formal determination that this meeting will not be open to the public. This action is necessary to safeguard confidential proprietary information and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals that may be revealed during this meeting, and to protect the free exchange of views, and avoid undue interference with Committee and Department operations.

This is accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, implementing regulations, 41 CFR 101-6.1023 and procurement regulations, 48 CFR section 315.604(d).

Anyone wishing to obtain information regarding this meeting should contact Doris Lefkowitz, Center for Cost and Financing Studies, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20852, telephone (301) 594-1406.

Dated: August 18, 1998.

**John M. Eisenberg,**

*Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98F-0707]

#### Dover Chemical Corp.; Filing of Food Additive Petition

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that Dover Chemical Corp. has filed a petition proposing that the food additive regulations be amended to expand the safe use of 3,9-bis[2,4-bis(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)phenoxy]-2,4,8,10-tetraoxa-3,9-diphosphaspiro[5.5]undecane, which may contain not more than 2 percent by weight of triisopropanolamine, as an antioxidant

and/or stabilizer for polycarbonate and polyethylene phthalate polymers intended for use in contact with food.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew J. Zajac, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-215), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-418-3095.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 409(b)(5) (21 U.S.C. 348(b)(5))), notice is given that a food additive petition (FAP 8B4621) has been filed by Dover Chemical Corp., 3676 Davis Rd. NW., Dover, OH 44622. The petition proposes to amend the food additive regulations in § 178.2010 Antioxidants and/or stabilizers for polymers (21 CFR 178.2010) to expand the safe use of 3,9-bis[2,4-bis(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)phenoxy]-2,4,8,10-tetraoxa-3,9-diphosphaspiro[5.5]undecane, which may contain not more than 2 percent by weight of triisopropanolamine, as an antioxidant and/or stabilizer for polycarbonate and polyethylene phthalate polymers intended for use in contact with food.

The agency has determined under 21 CFR 25.32(i) that this action is of a type that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

Dated: August 7, 1998.

**Laura M. Tarantino,**

*Acting Director, Office of Premarket Approval, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

#### Current Science and Technology on Sprouts

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the following meeting to review the current science, including technological and safety factors, relating to sprouts and to consider measures necessary to enhance the safety of these products.

*Date and Time:* The meeting will be held on September 28 through 29, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Location:* The meeting will be held at Crowne Plaza Washington Hotel,