

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7392-3]

Asthma Research Strategy**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a final document.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of a final document, *Asthma Research Strategy*, EPA 600/R-01/061. The *Asthma Research Strategy* serves to guide the planning of EPA research efforts led by the Office of Research and Development (ORD) to address the significant issues of exposures, effects, risk assessment, and risk management of environmental pollutants relevant to asthma.

ADDRESSES: A limited number of copies of the *Asthma Research Strategy* are available from EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) in Cincinnati, Ohio (telephone: 1-800-490-9198 or 513-489-8190). Please provide the title and the EPA number when ordering from NSCEP. Internet users may download a copy from EPA's ORD home page at <http://www.epa.gov/ORD>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Raub, National Center for Environmental Assessment/Research Triangle Park Office (MD-B-243-01), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone: 919-541-4157; facsimile: 919-541-1818; e-mail: raub.james@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The *Asthma Research Strategy* was developed in light of increasing rates of asthma, particularly in children, in the United States. Since the EPA is required to set pollutant standards to protect susceptible populations, a coordinated research effort is needed to study environmental pollutants that influence the incidence and severity of asthma. EPA has developed a plan to coordinate research efforts aimed at addressing the following issues: Factors contributing to the induction and exacerbation of asthma (e.g., combustion-related products, bioaerosols, and air toxics); susceptibility factors contributing to asthma (e.g., genetics, health status, socioeconomic status, residence and exposure history, and lifestyle and activity patterns); and risk assessment and risk management of environmental pollutants relevant to asthma. The *Asthma Research Strategy* identifies and prioritizes the research needed to

provide information to close the gaps in our knowledge of asthma and to control environmental factors that contribute to the prevalence and severity of asthma. The Strategy supplements and expands on other U.S. agency efforts to better understand this complex disease.

Asthma is characterized by chronic airway inflammation, mucus secretion, airway remodeling, and reversible airway obstruction. The disease has a definite genetic component, and can be caused by a variety of factors. In susceptible individuals, the inflammation causes recurrent episodes of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and cough particularly at night and/or early morning. Airflow obstruction usually associated with these symptoms is partly reversible either spontaneously or with treatment. Inflammation also causes an increase in airway responsiveness to a variety of stimuli. Most types of asthma are linked to allergic responses to common aeroallergens present in the indoor and outdoor environment. Common allergens include: house-dust mites, cockroaches, animal secretions, pollens, and molds. Exacerbation of asthma may occur with subsequent re-exposure to allergens or by exposure to a number of nonspecific triggers such as respiratory viruses, tobacco smoke, or certain air pollutants.

EPA has prepared the *Asthma Research Strategy* to strengthen the scientific foundation of the EPA risk assessments and risk management decisions. Agency research strategies provide a framework of research needs and priorities to guide its programs over the next 5 to 10 years. The Strategy includes a stable, long-term, core program of research in hazard identification, dose-response and exposure assessment, and risk reduction, as well as problem-oriented research that addresses current critical needs identified by EPA program offices and regions.

This *Asthma Research Strategy* was subjected to external peer review by independent scientific experts. The final Strategy reflects the comments of both internal and external peer review.

Dated: October 2, 2002.

Paul Gilman,

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7375-2]

Proposed CERCLA Section 122(h) Administrative Settlement; Martin Young And the Martin Young Trust, Yonkelowitz Junkyard Site, Hoopeston, Vermilion County, Illinois**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9622(i), notice is hereby given of a proposed administrative settlement for recovery of past response costs concerning the Yonkelowitz Junkyard Site in Hoopeston, Vermilion County, Illinois with the following settling parties: Martin Young and the Martin Young Trust. The settlement requires Martin Young to pay \$50,000 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund. Also, the settlement requires the Martin Young Trust to pay to the Hazardous Substance Superfund, within 60 days of receipt, all proceeds received from the sale, lease, transfer, mortgage, grant of, or conveyance of any interest, etc. in property located at the northwest corner of the intersection of First Avenue and Main Street, Hoopeston, Vermilion County, Illinois. The settlement includes a covenant not to sue the settling parties pursuant to section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9607(a), with respect to past response costs. For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the settlement. The Agency will consider all comments received and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 2, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The proposed settlement is available for public inspection at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590. A copy of the proposed settlement may be