DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following committee meeting:

Name: Working Group of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Audio Conference Call Time and Date: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., EST, Monday, January 9, 2006.

Place: Audio conference call via FTS conferencing. The USA toll-free dial-in number is 1–888–390–6586, pass code 41964.

Status: Open to the public, but without a public comment period.

Background: The ABRWH was established under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) of 2000 to advise the President, delegated to the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), on a variety of policy and technical functions required to implement and effectively manage the new compensation program. Key functions of the Board include providing advice on the development of probability of causation guidelines which have been promulgated by HHS as a final rule, advice on methods of dose reconstruction which have also been promulgated by HHS as a final rule, advice on the scientific validity and quality of dose reconstruction efforts being performed for the purposes of the compensation program, and advice on petitions to add classes of workers to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC).

In December 2000, the President delegated responsibility for funding, staffing, and operating the Board to HHS, which subsequently delegated this authority to CDC. NIOSH implements this responsibility for CDC. The charter was issued on August 3, 2001 and renewed at appropriate intervals, and will expire on August 3, 2007.

Purpose: The Board is charged with (a) providing advice to the Secretary, HHS, on the development of guidelines under Executive Order 13179; (b) providing advice to the Secretary on the scientific validity and quality of dose reconstruction efforts performed for this program; and (c) upon request by the Secretary, HHS, advise the Secretary on whether there is a class of employees at any Department of Energy facility who were exposed to radiation but for whom it is not feasible to estimate their radiation dose, and on whether there is reasonable likelihood that such radiation doses may have endangered the health of members of this class.

Matters to be Discussed: Agenda for the conference call includes reviews of the Bethlehem Steel Site Profile, Y–12 Site Profile, a report from the working group regarding discussions concerning the Board’s review of SEC petitions, and science issues. The agenda is subject to change as priorities dictate.

In the event a member cannot attend, written comments may be submitted. Any written comments received will be provided at the meeting and should be submitted to the contact person below well in advance of the meeting.

For Further Information Contact: Dr. Lewis V. Wade, Executive Secretary, NIOSH, CDC, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone 513/533–6825, fax 513/533–6826.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign Federal Register notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities for both CDC and the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.


Diane Allen, Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Announces the Following Meeting and Opening of the Public Comment Period


Meeting Date and Time: February 27, 2006, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Place: Robert A. Taft Laboratories, Taft Auditorium, NIOSH, CDC, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

Purpose: To explain and discuss the scientific basis for the draft document, "NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletin: Evaluation of Health Hazard and Recommendations for Occupational Exposure to Titanium Dioxide," current research on titanium dioxide, and information on occupational exposure to titanium dioxide. Special emphasis will be placed on discussion of the following:

1. What animal and human data best describe the health concerns from exposure to titanium dioxide? (2) What strategies are being used to control occupational exposure to titanium dioxide (e.g., engineering controls, work practices, personal protective equipment); (3) In which workplaces and occupations can exposure to titanium dioxide occur; (4) What challenges exist in measuring workplace exposures to titanium dioxide; (5) What are areas for future collaborative efforts (e.g., research, communication, development of exposure measurement and control strategies)?

The public is invited to attend and will have the opportunity to provide comments.

NIOSH seeks to obtain materials, including published and unpublished reports and research findings, to evaluate the possible health risks of occupational exposure to titanium dioxide (including particle size-specific information). Examples of requested information include, but are not to be limited to, the following: (1) Identification of industries or occupations in which exposures to titanium dioxide may occur; (2) Trends in the production and use of titanium dioxide; (3) Description of work tasks and scenarios with a potential for exposure to titanium dioxide; (4) Current and historical exposure measurement data in various types of industries and jobs; (5) Case reports or other health information demonstrating health effects in workers exposed to titanium dioxide; (6) Reports of experimental in vivo and in vitro studies that provide evidence of a dose–relationship between the particle size of a substance and its biological activity; (7) Reports of experimental inhalation studies with rodents demonstrating a relationship between the particle size or surface area of a substance and lung inflammation, fibrosis, and biochemical mediators; (8) Description of work practices and engineering controls used to reduce or prevent workplace exposure to titanium dioxide. (9)
Evaluations of the need for revision to those draft recommendations for reducing occupational exposure to titanium dioxide; (10) Data pertaining to the feasibility of establishing particle size-specific RELs for titanium dioxide.

NIOSH will use this information to assess the scientific basis for the draft worker health recommendations contained in the draft Current Intelligene Bulletin and determine the need for revision to those draft recommendations for reducing occupational exposure to titanium dioxide.

Status: The forum will include scientists and representatives from various government agencies, industry, labor, and other stakeholders, and is open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates 80 people. Due to limited space, notification of intent to attend the meeting must be made to Diane Miller no later than February 14, 2006. Ms. Miller can be reached by telephone at 513/533-8450 or by e-mail at niocindocket@cdc.gov. Requests to attend the meeting will be accommodated on a first-come basis.

Non-U.S. Citizens: Because of CDC Security Regulations, any non-U.S. citizen wishing to attend this meeting must provide the following information in writing to Diane Miller at the address below no later than February 14, 2006: (1) Visitor’s full name; (2) Gender; (3) Date of Birth; (4) Place of birth (city, province, state, country); (5) Citizenship; (6) Passport number; (7) Date of passport issue; (8) Date of passport expiration; (9) Type of Visa; (10) Visitor’s organization; (11) Organization address; (12) Organization telephone number; (13) Visitor’s position/title within the organization.

This information will be transmitted to the CDC Security Office for approval. Visitors will be notified as soon as approval has been obtained.

A copy of the draft Current Intelligence Bulletin Evaluation of Health Hazard and Recommendations for Occupational Exposure to Titanium Dioxide can be obtained from the Internet at http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/preprint/tio2.pdf or as a hard copy may be requested from the Docket Officer, Diane Miller (contact information below).

Addresses: Comments should be submitted to the NIOSH Docket Office, ATTN: Diane Miller, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway, M/S C–34, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone 513/533–8450, fax 513/533–8265.

Comments may also be submitted directly through the Web site (http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/preprint/tio2) or by e-mail to niocindocket@cdc.gov. Email attachments should be formatted in Microsoft Word. Comments should be submitted to NIOSH no later than March 31, 2006, and should reference docket number NIOSH–033 in the subject heading.

Oral comments made at the public meeting must also be submitted to the docket in writing in order to be considered by the Agency.

All information received in response to this notice will be available for public examination and copying at the NIOSH Docket Office, Room 111, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

Contact Persons For Technical Information: Christine Sofge 513/533–8439 or Faye Rice 513/533–8335, M/S C–15, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign Federal Register notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities for both CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.


Diane Allen,
Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. ES–8100 Filed 12–29–05; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services


Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the Agency’s function; (2) the accuracy of the estimate; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

1. Type of Information Collection Request: Extension of a currently approved collection; Title of Information Collection: CMS Real-time Eligibility Agreement and Access Request; Form Number: CMS–10157 (OMB#: 0938–0960); Use: Federal law requires that CMS take precautions to minimize the security risk to Federal information systems. Accordingly, CMS is requiring that trading partners who wish to conduct the eligibility transaction on a real-time basis to access Medicare beneficiary information provide certain assurances as a condition of receiving access to the Medicare database for the purpose of conducting eligibility verification. Health care providers, clearinghouses, and health plans that wish access to the Medicare database are required to complete this form. The information will be used to assure that those entities that access the Medicare database are aware of applicable provisions and penalties; Frequency: Recordkeeping and Reporting—One time; Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions; Number of Respondents: 122,000; Total Annual Responses: 122,000; Total Annual Hours: 45,000.

2. Type of Information Collection Request: New Collection; Title of Information Collection: Medicare Health Support Program Medical Records Abstraction; Form Number: CMS–10172 (OMB#: 0938–New); Use: The Medicare Health Support Program (MHS) is authorized under Section 721 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). There are eight Medicare Health Support Organizations (MHSOs) that have signed cooperative agreements with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide care support services to targeted Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries. The purposes of the MHS program are to improve the quality of healthcare provided to Medicare FFS beneficiaries with congestive heart failure and/or diabetes and to reduce the healthcare treatment cost to Medicare. MHS performance measures provide CMS with information to monitor the program operations and identify positive or negative program effects, provide MHSOs with feedback, and