Conference Center, 9751 Washingtonian Blvd., Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Contact Person: Anyone wishing to obtain a roster of members, agenda or minutes of the non-confidential portions of this meeting should contact Mrs. Bonnie Campbell, Committee Management Officer, Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations, AHRQ, 540 Gaither Road, Room 2038, Rockville, Maryland 20850, Telephone (301) 427–1554.

Agenda items for this meeting are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: December 19, 2007.

Carolyn M. Clancy,

Director.

[FR Doc. 07–6216 Filed 12–27–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–90–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

[ATSDR–237]

Identification Of Priority Data Needs for Six Priority Hazardous Substances

AGENCY: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Request for public comments on the identification of priority data needs for six priority hazardous substances and an ongoing call for voluntary research proposals.

SUMMARY: This notice makes available for public comment the priority data needs for six priority hazardous substances (see Table 1) as part of the continuing development and implementation of the ATSDR Substance-Specific Applied Research Program (SSARP). The notice also serves as a continuous call for voluntary research proposals.

The exposure and toxicity priority data needs in this notice were distilled from the data needs identified in ATSDR's toxicological profiles by the logical scientific approach described in a decision guide published in the **Federal Register** on September 11, 1989 (54 FR 37618). The priority data needs represent essential information to improve the database for conducting public health assessments. Research to address these priority data needs will help to determine the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risks of adverse health effects in people exposed to the hazardous substances.

The priority data needs identified in this notice reflect the opinion of ATSDR, in consultation with other federal programs, about the research needed pursuant to ATSDR's authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (Superfund), or CERCLA, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) [42 U.S.C. 9604(i)]. The needs identified here do not represent the priority data needs for any other agency or program.

Consistent with Section 104(i)(12) of CERCLA as amended [42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(12)], nothing in this research program shall be construed to delay or otherwise affect or impair the President, the Administrator of ATSDR, or the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from exercising any authority regarding any other provision of law, including the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1972 (FIFRA), or the response and abatement authorities of CERCLA.

ATSDR worked with other federal programs to determine common substance-specific data needs and mechanisms to implement research that may include authorities under TSCA and FIFRA, private-sector voluntarism, or the direct use of CERCLA funds.

When deciding the type of research that should be done, ATSDR considers the recommendations of the Interagency Testing Committee (ITC) established under Section 4(e) of TSCA. Federally funded projects that collect information from 10 or more respondents and that are funded by cooperative agreements are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act. If the proposed project involves research on human subjects, the applicants must comply with Department of Health and Human Services regulations (45 CFR part 46) regarding the protection of human subjects. The applicants must assure that the project will be subject to initial and continuing review by the appropriate institutional review committees. Overall, by providing additional scientific information for the risk assessment process, data generated from this research will support other researchers who are conducting human health assessments involving these six substances.

Table 1 presents the priority data needs for six priority substances. The six substances are included in the ATSDR Priority List of Hazardous Substances (70 FR 72840, December 7, 2005). ATSDR invites comments from the public on the individual priority data needs and the priority data needs documents for these substances. After considering the comments, ATSDR will publish the final priority data needs for each substance. These priority data needs will be addressed by the mechanisms described in the ''Implementation of Substance-Specific Applied Research Program'' section of this **Federal Register** Notice.

TABLE 1.—SUBSTANCE-SPECIFIC PRIORITY DATA NEEDS FOR SIX PRIORITY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Substance	Priority data needs
Aluminum	Exposure levels in humans living near hazardous waste sites. Exposure levels in children. Dose-response data for acute-duration(1) oral exposure.
Cresol	Exposure levels in humans living near hazardous waste sites. Exposure levels in children. Dose-response data for acute-duration(1) oral exposure.
Diazinon	Developmental toxicity data for oral exposure.
Dichloropropenes	Dose-response data for acute-duration(1) inhalation exposure. Immunotoxicity battery via inhalation exposure.
Guthion	Studies of developmental toxicity via oral exposure with emphasis on neurodevelopmental toxicity.
Phenol	Exposure levels in humans living near hazardous waste sites. Exposure levels in children. Two-year oral carcinogenicity bioassay.

(1) 14 days or less.

Note: Consult the priority data needs documents for details on how these priority data needs were determined.

Voluntary Research. This notice also serves as a continuous call for voluntary research proposals. Private-sector organizations may volunteer to conduct research to address specific priority data needs in this notice by submitting a letter of intent to ATSDR (see **ADDRESSES** section of this notice). A Tri-Agency Superfund Applied Research Committee (TASARC), comprised of scientists from ATSDR, the National Toxicology Program (NTP), and EPA, will review all proposals.

The substance-specific priority data needs were based on, and determined from, information in corresponding ATSDR toxicological profiles. Background technical information and justification for the priority data needs in this notice are in the priority data needs documents. These documents are available on ATSDR's Web site at *http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pdns/*. Printed copies of these documents are also available for review by requesting them in writing from ATSDR (see **ADDRESSES** section of this notice).

DATES: Comments concerning the priority data needs for the six substances must be received by *90 days from the publication date*. Regarding ATSDR's call for voluntary research proposals, the agency considers voluntary research crucial to the continuing development of SSARP and believes this effort should be an open and continuous one. Therefore, private-sector organizations are encouraged to volunteer to conduct research to address the identified priority data needs until ATSDR announces that other research has been initiated for a specific priority data need.

ADDRESSES: The priority data needs documents are available on ATSDR's Web site at *http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pdns/*. Submit comments to Nickolette Roney, Applied Toxicology Branch, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., Mailstop F–32, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; e-mail: *NRoney@cdc.gov*. Information about pertinent ongoing or completed research that may fill priority data needs cited in this notice should be similarly addressed. Also, use the same address to request printed copies of the priority data needs documents and to submit proposals to conduct voluntary research.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nickolette Roney, Applied Toxicology Branch, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., Mailstop F–32, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; e-mail: *NRoney@cdc.gov*; telephone: (770) 488–3332; fax: (770) 488–4178.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

CERCLA, as amended by SARA [42 U.S.C. 9604(i)], requires that ATSDR (1) Develop jointly with EPA a list of hazardous substances found at National Priorities List (NPL) sites (in order of priority), (2) prepare toxicological profiles of these substances, and (3) ensure the initiation of a research program to address identified priority data needs associated with the substances.

SSARP was initiated in 1991. A list of priority data needs for 38 priority hazardous substances was announced in the **Federal Register** on October 17, 1991 (56 FR 52178). The list was subsequently revised, based on public comments, and was published in final form on November 16, 1992 (57 FR 54150). In 1997, after releasing for public comment, ATSDR finalized the priority data needs for a second list of 12 substances that priority data needs list was announced in the **Federal Register** on July 30, 1997 (62 FR 40820). ATSDR then identified priority data needs for a third list of 10 hazardous substances; this list was released as a draft for public comment and published in its final form on April 29, 2003 (68 FR 22704). On September 8, 2006, ATSDR released priority data needs for two hazardous substances as a draft for public comment (71 FR 53102).

This ATSDR SSARP supplies the necessary information to improve the database to conduct public health assessments. This link between research and public health assessments, and the process for distilling priority data needs for ranked hazardous substances from the data needs identified in associated ATSDR toxicological profiles, are described in the ATSDR ''Decision Guide for Identifying Substance-Specific Data Needs Related to Toxicological Profiles'' (54 FR 37618, September 11, 1989).

Implementation of Substance-Specific Applied Research Program

In Section 104(i)(5)(D), CERCLA states that it is the sense of Congress that the costs for conducting this research program should be borne by the manufacturers and processors of the hazardous substances found under the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA); by registrants under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1972 (FIFRA); or by cost recovery from responsible parties under CERCLA. To execute this statutory intent, ATSDR developed a plan whereby parts of SSARP are being conducted through regulatory mechanisms (TSCA/FIFRA), private-sector voluntarism, and the direct use of CERCLA funds.

CERCLA also requires that ATSDR consider recommendations of the Interagency Testing Committee, established under Section 4(e) of TSCA, on the types of research to be done. ATSDR actively participates on this committee.

The mechanisms for implementing SSARP are discussed next. The status of SSARP in addressing priority data needs of the first 60 priority hazardous substances through these mechanisms was described in a **Federal Register** Notice on December 13, 2005 (70 FR 73749).

A. TSCA/FIFRA

In developing and implementing SSARP, ATSDR and EPA established procedures to identify those priority data needs of common interest to multiple Federal programs. Where practicable, these data needs will be addressed through a program of toxicologic testing under TSCA or FIFRA. This part of the research will be conducted according to established TSCA/FIFRA procedures and guidelines.

B. Private-Sector Voluntarism

As part of SSARP, on February 7, 1992, ATSDR announced a set of proposed procedures for conducting voluntary research (57 FR 4758). Revisions based on public comments were published on November 16, 1992 (57 FR 54160). ATSDR strongly encourages private-sector organizations to propose research to address priority data needs at any time until ATSDR announces that research has already been initiated for a specific priority data need. Private-sector organizations may volunteer to conduct research to address specific priority data needs identified in this notice by submitting a letter of intent.

The letter of intent should be a brief statement (1–2 pages) that identifies the priority data need(s) to be filled and the methods to be used. TASARC will review these proposals and recommend to ATSDR the voluntary research projects that should be pursued- and how they should be conducted-with the volunteer organizations. ATSDR will enter into only those voluntary research projects that lead to high-quality, peer-reviewed scientific work. Additional details regarding the process for voluntary research are in the **Federal Register** Notices cited in this section.

C. CERCLA

Those priority data needs that are not addressed by TSCA/FIFRA or initial voluntarism will be considered for funding by ATSDR through its CERCLA budget. Much of this research program is envisioned to be unique to CERCLA—for example, research on substances not regulated by other programs or research needs specific to public health assessments. A current example of the direct use of CERCLA funds is a cooperative agreement with the Minority Health Professions Foundation (MHPF) that supports the MHPF's Environmental Health, Health Services, and Toxicology Research Program.

Mechanisms to address these priority data needs may include a second call for voluntarism. Again, scientific peer review of study protocols and results would occur for all research conducted under this auspice.

Substance-Specific Priority Data Needs

Table 1 identifies the priority data needs. ATSDR encourages private-sector organizations and other governmental programs to use ATSDR's priority data needs to plan their research activities.

Dated: December 19, 2007.

Ken Rose,

Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

[FR Doc. E7–25213 Filed 12–27–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS–222 and CMS–R–268]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; 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) 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 functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (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 currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Independent Rural Health Center/Freestanding Federally Qualified Health Center Cost Report and Supporting Regulations 42 CFR 413.20 AND 42 CFR 413.24; *Use:* Providers of service in the Medicare program are required to submit annual information to achieve reimbursement for health care services rendered to Medicare beneficiaries. The Form CMS–222 cost report is needed to determine the amount of reasonable cost due to the providers for furnishing medical services to Medicare beneficiaries; *Form Number:* CMS–222 (OMB# 0938–0107); *Frequency:* Yearly; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit and Not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 3,159; *Total Annual Responses:* 3,159; *Total Annual Hours:* 157,950.

2. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Survey Tool for *http://www.medicare.gov* and *http://www.cms.hhs.gov; Use:* The purpose of this submission is to request a revision of 0938–0756 (CMS-R–268) to continue to collect information from Internet users as they exit from the Websites Medicare.gov and CMS.hhs.gov. As part of the revised collection we are combining the content from the collection 0938–0900 that was discontinued on 5/31/2007. The packages are being combined to eliminate a duplication of effort. We are requesting a three-year clearance, so that the feedback received through the survey can be used continually to update and improve the sites. To ensure that we gather information about user reactions to the Websites, we have developed a survey tool that users can complete when they exit either site or by accessing a link on the bottom bar on the page. The responses on this survey tool will help CMS to make appropriate changes to the Websites in the future. The survey tool contains questions about the information that visitors are seeking from the sites, the degree to which either site was useful to them, the improvements that they would like to see in the sites, and their general comments. *Form Number:* CMS–R–268 (OMB# 0938–0756); *Frequency:* On occasion; *Affected Public:* Individuals and households, Private sector—Business or other for-profit; *Number of Respondents:* 7,000; *Total Annual Responses:* 7,000; *Total Annual Hours:* 1,167.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS' Web Site address at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995,* or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to *Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov,* or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786–1326.

To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received at the address below, no later than 5 p.m. on February 26, 2008. CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development—C, Attention: Bonnie L Harkless, Room C4–26–05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244–1850.

Dated: December 20, 2007.

Michelle Shortt,

Director, Regulations Development Group, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

[FR Doc. E7–25289 Filed 12–27–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–7007–N]

Medicare Program; Request for Nominations for the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice requests nominations for individuals to serve on the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education (the Panel) to fill current vacancies and vacancies that will become available in 2008. The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program.