The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a 30-day public comment period associated with release of the Systematic Review Protocol for the Inorganic Mercury Salts IRIS Assessment. This document communicates the rationale for conducting the assessment of inorganic mercury salts, describes screening criteria to identify relevant literature, outlines the approach for evaluating study quality, and describes the methods for dose-response analysis.

The 30-day public comment period begins March 11, 2021 and ends April 12, 2021. Comments must be received on or before April 12, 2021.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the docket, contact the ORD Docket at the EPA Headquarters Docket Center; email: Docket_ORD@epa.gov.

For technical information on the protocol, contact Mr. Dahnish Shams, Center for Public Health & Environmental Assessment; email: shams.dahnish@epa.gov.

II. How To Submit Technical Comments to the Docket at http://www.regulations.gov

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–ORD–2019–0504 for inorganic mercury salts, by one of the following methods:

- www.regulations.gov: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
  - Email: Docket_ORD@epa.gov.
  - Fax: 202–566–9744. Due to COVID–19, there may be a delay in processing comments submitted by fax.
  - Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (ORD Docket), Mail Code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460. The phone number is 202–566–1752. Due to COVID–19, there may be a delay in processing comments submitted by mail.

For information on visiting the EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room, visit https://www.epa.gov/dockets. Due to public health concerns related to COVID–19, the EPA Docket Center and Reading Room may be closed to the public with limited exceptions. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is 202–566–1744. The public can submit comments via www.Regulations.gov or email.

Instructions: Direct your comments to EPA–HQ–ORD–2019–0504 for inorganic mercury salts. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the closing date will be marked “late,” and may only be considered if time permits. It is EPA’s policy to include all comments it receives in the public docket without change and to make the comments available online at https://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided, unless a comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information for which disclosure is restricted by statute.

D. EPA does not submit information through https://www.regulations.gov or email that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected. The https://www.regulations.gov website is an “anonymous access” system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an email comment directly to EPA without going through https://www.regulations.gov, your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD–ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA’s public docket, visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at https://www.epa.gov/dockets.

Docket: Documents in the docket are listed in the https://www.regulations.gov index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other materials, such as copyrighted material, are publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in https://www.regulations.gov or as a hard copy at the ORD Docket in the EPA Headquarters Docket Center.