

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2812

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study of the potentially injurious effects to the environment and human health from imported electrolytic manganese metal that contains selenium.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study of the potentially injurious effects to the environment and human health from imported electrolytic manganese metal that contains selenium.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Manganese Metal Safe-
5 ty Control Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY STUDY ON**
2 **THE ADDITION OF SELENIUM TO THE PROC-**
3 **ESSING OF MANGANESE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Manganese, in various forms, is critical to
6 iron and steel production, is a key component in alu-
7 minum alloys and dry cell batteries, and is an essen-
8 tial nutritional element for plants, animals, and hu-
9 mans.

10 (2) Consequently, manganese is present in die-
11 tary supplements, fertilizers, and animal feed, and in
12 aluminum cans, building materials, and a wide array
13 of other products used in daily life.

14 (3) The United States is the largest consumer
15 of manganese in the world, consuming over 500,000
16 tons annually.

17 (4) Though manganese metal can be obtained
18 from oxide ores by reduction with carbon, aluminum,
19 magnesium, or sodium, the majority is obtained by
20 way of electrolysis. The electrolytic manganese man-
21 ufacturing process requires substantial consumption
22 of electricity.

23 (5) While the United States was once a signifi-
24 cant producer of manganese metal, it is now depend-
25 ent on foreign sources for this important industrial
26 material.

1 (6) To improve the electrical current efficiency,
2 some producers incorporate selenium in the produc-
3 tion of manganese metal. While this gains them cer-
4 tain economic advantages, it may come at a price to
5 the environment and human health.

6 (7) Selenium and various selenium compounds
7 are listed substances under the Toxic Substances
8 Control Act Inventory. Selenium is a persistent bio-
9 accumulative toxin.

10 (8) Selenium is also listed in table 1 of section
11 261.24 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, as
12 a substance causing a waste that exhibits the char-
13 acteristic of toxicity, and hence be a hazardous
14 waste.

15 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Administrator of the
16 Environmental Protection Agency shall conduct a com-
17 prehensive study to determine whether electrolytic man-
18 ganese metal imported into the United States that con-
19 tains selenium poses any harmful effects to humans or the
20 environment.

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
23 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
24 \$100,000 for fiscal year 2004 to carry out this Act.

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