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February 23, 1996

Hasmukh C. Shah, Ph.D.
Manager, Vinyl Chloride Panel
Chemical Manufacturers Association
1300 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

Re: Vinyl Chloride Risk Assessment

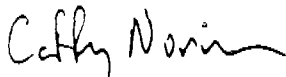
Dear Has:

Enclosed is a recent BNA article indicating that vinyl chloride is among 12 substances whose risk assessments will be updated on the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). According to the article, an upcoming notice will request health effects information on these substances

PRIVILEGED MATERIAL REDACTED

With best regards,

Sincerely,


W. Caffey Norman, III

Enclosure

CMA 115845

ing to a report released Feb. 1 by a business group. Companies form alliances with environmental advocates for a variety of reasons, according to the report by The Conference Board, a New York-based research organization. These include achieving legal, regulatory, budgeting, marketing, or business development goals or for public relations. The report is partly based on interviews with 100 senior executives. Leticia Orti, research associate at the group, told BNA. The report, *Environmental Alliances: Critical Factors for Success* (Report No. 134-95-RR), is available from The Conference Board, 845 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022-6679; telephone (212) 759-0900.

IRIS Review Set For 12 Chemicals

The risk assessment information on a group of 12 chemicals, including pesticides, metals, and industrial chemicals, will be reviewed in a pilot project aimed at upgrading the Integrated Risk Information System, an Environmental Protection Agency official said Feb. 5. The dozen chemicals were picked for IRIS, a public database, because they are contaminants in soil, air, and water, or because a significant amount of new chemical test data have become available, according to Vanessa Vu, deputy director of EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Health and Environmental Review Division. EPA will review and update entries on arsenic, bentazon, beryllium, chlordane, chromium⁶⁺, chromium³⁺, cumene, methyl methacrylate, methylene diphenyl isocyanate, naphthalene, tributyl tin oxide, and vinyl chloride, Vu said. IRIS contains cancer and noncancer health hazard information on more than 500 chemicals.

Ozone Depletion Caused By CFCs, Scientists Say

New satellite data confirm that stratospheric ozone depletion in recent years is caused by chlorofluorocarbons and not by other chemicals that are released by humans or volcanoes, according to a report in the Feb. 8 *Nature* magazine. "The inescapable conclusion is that the depletion is caused by continued use of the CFCs," said the report by two scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and two researchers from the University of California-Irvine. Chlorine is the only element in CFCs that breaks up ozone molecules, the report stated. The researchers said four years of satellite data show conclusively that releases of CFCs into the atmosphere are responsible for the increase in recent years of chlorine levels in the stratosphere. Natural and other human-caused emissions of chlorine-containing compounds cannot account for this rise in stratospheric concentrations of chlorine, they added.

Rule On Ozone Depleters Stayed Three Months

The Environmental Protection Agency on Jan. 31 announced a three-month "stay and reconsideration" of a reporting requirement under the Clean Air Act affecting importers of used ozone depleting substances (61 FR 3316). To import used compounds (Class I ozone depleters), the importer must undergo a 15-day petition process with EPA before the product is shipped. The petition contains information to allow EPA to verify that the product was used previously as opposed to being virgin stock. In a separate notice, EPA proposed a temporary extension of the stay that would apply in the event that the agency does not complete its reconsideration in three months. Comments on the action must be sent by March 1 to the EPA Air Docket, Docket No. A-92-13, Waterside Mall, EPA, 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. More information can be obtained from Tom Land in the EPA Stratospheric Ozone Division at (202) 233-9185.

Watershed Approach Could Improve State Consistency

Consistency among states' discharge permitting programs probably will improve as the Environmental Protection Agency moves toward watershed-based solutions to pollution problems, the General Accounting Office reported Feb. 2. GAO said waste water discharge controls on similar types of facilities vary significantly from state to state. The report listed several examples of situations when differences between discharge limits became an issue of concern, including an instance in 1995, when an industrial facility challenged a Pennsylvania limit for arsenic that was 2,500 times more stringent than one used in neighboring New York state. Copies of the report, *Water Pollution: Differences Among the States in Issuing Permits Discharge of Pollutants* (GAO/RCED-96-42), are available from GAO, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, Md. 20884-6015; telephone (202) 512-6000.

LEGAL AND ENFORCEMENT BRIEFS

Order To Cease Mining Operation Upheld In Oklahoma

An Oklahoma mining company was properly ordered to cease operating after it was unable to ensure that surface water leaving its coal mining and reclamation sites complied with acidity limits in its mining permit, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled Jan. 23 (*P&K Co. v. Oklahoma Department of Mines*, Okla Sup Ct, No. 75,778, 1/23/96). The state Supreme Court found it was immaterial that some of the acidic runoff leaving P&K Co.'s site stemmed from nearby abandoned mines. The court also determined that the allegedly high costs of the equipment required to treat the acidic runoff could not be used to defend against the state's administrative cessation order. The state has taken the position that surface mining should not be allowed if reclamation is infeasible, the court said, adding that P&K was aware of ground water contamination and economic dangers associated with its mining plan before it commenced its operations.

STATE NEWS AND ENFORCEMENT IN BRIEF

Massachusetts Clean Site Initiative Enforced

BOSTON—In an action taken under Massachusetts' Clean Site Initiative, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority agreed Feb. 2 to take immediate action to clean up petroleum contamination at a bus garage in Medford, Mass. (*Massachusetts v. Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority*, Mass Super Ct, No. 96-0591, 2/2/96). Under the terms of a stipulation agreement approved Feb. 2 by Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Herman J. Smith, MBTA agreed to clean up fuel oil and kerosene that allegedly leaked from underground storage tanks at the agency's Fellowship Bus Garage. According to a complaint filed with the agreement, the kerosene and fuel oil have allegedly contaminated soil, surface water, and ground water and have migrated to a nearby creek and river. Attorney General Scott Harshbarger had threatened to seek a preliminary injunction against MBTA unless immediate action was taken.

In November 1995 DOE and two private companies split their resources and repowered a vintage 1953 steam generator using clean burning coal, according to a DOE release. It is the most recent of 43 startup projects in DOE's Clean Coal Technology Program, according to Larry Joseph, DOE director of the Office of Clean Coal Technology.

U.S. electric utility plants burned 817 million tons of coal in 1994, producing over 12 million tons of sulfur dioxide and over 5 million tons of nitrogen oxides, according to DOE's Energy Information Administration. Both emissions are known to cause acid rain.

To reduce these emissions while keeping coal as a viable energy source, DOE began the Clean Coal Technology Program. Begun in 1986, the department since has made 43 joint investments with industry in new coal burning technologies, amounting to \$2.5 billion from DOE and \$4.5 billion from private industry, Joseph said. The most recent project, in West Terre Haute, Indiana, is a \$438 million project split evenly between DOE and two companies, Destec Energy Inc., and PSI Energy Inc.

According to Joseph, DOE will be starting up two other projects this year, one in Reno, Nev., and another in Polk County, Fla.

Emissions 15 Times Below Requirements

At the revamped plant, nitrogen and sulfur emissions will be reduced "to a fraction of the Clean Air Act requirements for new plants," DOE said in the release. Marvin Brown, a communications manager for Destec, told BNA Feb. 5 that the facility "renders a product that is 15 times lower than the year 2,000 [CAA] amendment requirements."

Joseph told BNA that the plant will remove over 90 percent of the coal's nitrogen emissions and over 98.5 percent of sulfur emissions. Conclusive figures were not yet available, but DOE will be monitoring data from the plant for three years to discover exact figures, Joseph said.

The plant reduces emissions by removing sulfur from the coal and by burning gas converted from the coal, rather than burning coal directly, Brown said. The gasification process is the cutting edge aspect of the new plant, but is "proprietary," Brown said. He would not discuss the process in detail.

Sulfur is removed from the coal using a chemical process before gasification, Brown said. Two products are left over from the process — pure sulfur and slag — and both are recycled in commercial markets; sulfur is sold for use in fertilizer and the slag for use in road construction, Brown said. This further decreases environmental waste, DOE said.

Joseph said existing technology could remove 100 percent of sulfur from the coal, but the cost to do so would be prohibitive.

280,000 Potential Jobs

Traditional coal plants can reduce polluted emissions, but only after adding cleaning processes that are expensive and inefficient, Joseph said. Most meet

CAA requirements by only using coal that is low in sulfur, which makes for cleaner emissions.

But in Indiana the new technology "allows us to continue using high-sulfur coal from the local area, preserving jobs and regional economies that depend on coal mining," said Hazel O'Leary, DOE's Secretary of Energy, in the release. About 300 jobs have been created as a result of the project, the release said.

According to O'Leary, "the cutting edge technology demonstrated by plants such as this have the potential to create up to 280,000 new jobs for Americans."

"Over the next 15 years, global power generation will be a \$1 trillion market, forecasts suggest that the U.S. clean coal technology industry can capture a \$200 billion share of that market and reduce pollution by tens of millions of tons each year," she added.

Brown said that the new technology will let utilities burn gas even though they are not hooked up to natural gas lines. It will also be beneficial to utilities located in coal producing regions, he added. But for now the price of gas produced from coal is "not in line" with natural gas, Brown said.

The three-year demonstration period will help show whether or not the technology will be marketable, Brown said. Joseph said the clean coal program would probably end in about three or four years, after all new startup projects have been monitored for three years. □

— By James Kennedy

Risk Assessment

PESTICIDES, METALS, INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS TO BE IN IRIS UPDATE PROJECT, OFFICIAL SAYS

The risk assessment information on a group of 12 chemicals—including pesticides, metals, and industrial chemicals—will be reviewed in a pilot project aimed at upgrading the Integrated Risk Information System, the project leader told BNA Feb. 5.

The dozen chemicals were picked for IRIS, a public database, because they are contaminants in soil, air, and water, or because a significant amount of new chemical test data have become available to the Environmental Protection Agency, according to Vanessa Vu, deputy director of the agency's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Health and Environmental Review Division.

EPA scientists will review and update IRIS entries on: arsenic, bentazon, beryllium, chlordane, chromium +6, chromium +3, cumene, methyl methacrylate, methylene diphenyl isocyanate, naphthalene, tributyl tin oxide, and vinyl chloride, Vu said. Among the substances for which new data are available is cumene, she added.

The pilot project was designed to implement improvements called for in a July 1994 quality action team report on external peer review and public involvement in IRIS. The scientific integrity of the database and EPA's process for managing it also have drawn congressional attention in recent regulatory relief proposals.

2-6-96 ■ DEN ■

NEWS

(No. 24) A - 7

EPA To Seek Data From Chemical Makers

A forthcoming *Federal Register* notice from EPA will ask chemical makers to provide health effects data voluntarily on these chemicals to aid the IRIS pilot project, Vu said. Several companies provided this type of information in response to a Feb. 25, 1993, *Federal Register* notice on IRIS, she said.

The IRIS database contains cancer and non-cancer health hazard information on more than 500 chemicals. The publicly accessible database has information relevant to two of the four parts of a risk assessment—hazard identification and dose-response information. It is often consulted by state regulatory agencies, environmental consultants, and EPA regional offices. IRIS was created in 1986 to provide a resource of consistent chemical-specific risk information that could be used throughout EPA.

At the end of the year-long pilot project, EPA plans to have for each of the 12 substances an updated reference dose, reference concentration value, and cancer potency estimate, Vu said. The non-cancer risk measurements, known as the reference dose and reference concentration value, are estimates of the level of a substance that a person could be exposed to over a lifetime without suffering adverse effects.

The pilot project will employ a revised process for adding and reviewing information in IRIS that includes varying levels of external peer review, Vu said. If the new process works, EPA expects to adopt the approach to managing the database, she said. □

Water Pollution**CLEAN WATER ACT CITIZEN SUIT NOT BARRED BY DEADLINE EXTENSIONS**

Georgia's repeated extensions of the compliance deadline in a company's Clean Water Act discharge permit allow a citizen suit to enforce the permit limits, a federal district court ruled Dec. 20 (*Culbertson v. Coats American Inc.*, DC NGa, No. 94-CV-135-WCO, 12/21/95).

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia granted summary judgment to property owners downstream from Coats American Inc. The court held that the company had violated discharge limits for zinc and copper despite the state's extensions. The court also granted the property owners summary judgment that Coats American was in violation of a Georgia rule prohibiting discoloring discharges that interfere with legitimate water uses. The court said observance of the rule was a discharge permit requirement.

The unpermitted discharges came from Coats American's textile facility in Stephens County, Ga., into Eastanollee Creek in Toccoa, Ga., according to the court. The state issued permits in 1988 and 1992 limiting the amounts of zinc and copper the company could discharge. But the state subsequently extended the compliance deadlines so that Coats American never had to meet those discharge limits.

The plaintiffs, who own land on Eastanollee Creek downstream from the facility, filed a citizen suit

under the Clean Water Act as well as common law tort claims against Coats American and sought summary judgment.

The district court ruled the citizen suit was not barred by the so-called *Burford* abstention doctrine, which protects complex state administrative processes from undue federal court interference. It also ruled the suit was not barred for failure to exhaust administrative remedies where the plaintiffs had complied with the citizen suit provision's 60-day notice requirement.

Nor was the suit precluded by a state administrative action where the state had not diligently prosecuted the company under the act, but instead offered it a series of deadline extensions. A Georgia Superior Court order granting a deadline extension also did not preclude the citizen suit because only judicial actions requiring compliance bar such suits, the court said.

The court declined to grant either side summary judgment on the issues of state instream water quality standards, temperature violations, or visible foam violations because of factual disputes on those issues.

The district court also ruled that plaintiffs' negligence, strict liability, trespass, and nuisance claims under Georgia law were not barred by the state statute of limitations. The alleged common law violations were continuing acts, the court said, and each new act gave rise to a new cause of action, the court concluded. □

Germany**GERMAN WASTE SITES, INCINERATORS OPERATING AT ONLY 65 PERCENT CAPACITY**

DÜSSELDORF—German waste sites and incinerators operated at only 65 percent of capacity in 1995, according to figures released Jan. 30 by the Federal Waste Management Association (BDE).

A BDE spokesman told BNA there has been a "dramatic drop" in the volume of both commercial and private household waste and that operators of waste sites and incinerators "are now scrambling to find waste to keep operating."

The drop, according to the BDE spokesman, is attributed largely to two factors: Germany has one of Europe's largest recycling networks for commercial and household waste; and the recession of the previous years has slowed down production, thus generating less waste.

On top of this, Germany continues to export waste to countries, primarily in Eastern Europe and Asia, which have lower labor costs and fewer emission regulations. Also, industries such as chemicals and power generation have expanded into the waste management sector, adding more capacity to the market. Consequently, experts say, Germany now has an oversupply of waste disposal facilities, which has put pressure on prices.

The Rhine Westphalia Economic Institute and the Waste and Restoration Association of North Rhine Westphalia have compiled price-per-ton averages for several types of waste: DM10 to DM60 (US\$6.90-\$41.50) per ton for both energy and construc-

The product managers listed above may be contacted by mail at EPA's Registration division (7505C) at the address given above.

Research

FIRST RESULTS OF MERCURY STUDY ANTICIPATED BY EPA REVEAL NO MAJOR EFFECTS ON CHILDREN

Preliminary results from one of two studies holding up the release of a major Environmental Protection Agency report on mercury indicate that high levels of the substance in infants do not appear to have significant neurotoxic effects, an author of the study said Feb. 7.

The study, which looked at health data from several hundred mothers and children in the Seychelles Islands, is ongoing, according to Thomas Clarkson, head of the Department of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester. Clarkson told BNA, however, that results of tests on children under 30 months of age that were exposed to methylmercury are "very encouraging." The Seychelles Islands are in the Indian Ocean north of Madagascar.

"The bulk of the evidence shows the kids are doing fine," Clarkson said. He said tests conducted by neurologists on the children have, so far, not revealed the same impacts seen in previous mercury studies, such as delayed brain development or, in some cases, brain damage.

It is too early to draw final conclusions from the study, however, Clarkson said. He added that researchers have to assess a "mountain of data" collected on the children as they grew older.

Portions of the study were published in the Feb. 7 issue of the journal *Neurotoxicology*.

Concern about mercury from industrial pollution has prompted health advisories restricting fishing or fish consumption, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences noted in a Feb. 7 news release. NIEHS provided funding for the Seychelles study through its extramural grants program.

The study—which took place in a pilot phase followed by a second ongoing phase—looked at more than 1,450 children whose mothers eat an average of 12 fish meals each week. Researchers evaluated the children's mental and physical development. The average maternal hair mercury level was 6 parts per million, but 99 had levels as high as 36 ppm NIEHS spokesman Bill Grigg said Feb. 7.

The journal articles discuss the results of the pilot study that followed more than 750 children from six months of age until they were five-and-a-half years old. Also described are early results from the ongoing, controlled, longitudinal study that has followed more than 700 children from age six months to two-and-a-half years.

The Environmental Protection Agency is awaiting the results of the Seychelles Island study, and a second study of residents of the Faeroe Islands near Denmark, to compare them with its own study on the health impacts of mercury.

Required By Air Act

EPA's study, which is required by Section 112(n) of the Clean Air Act, is complete, according to Martha Keating, of the Air Quality Strategies and Standards Division of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

She said, however, that the document may be revised in light of the two pending studies. "We have to look at those before we release our report," she said.

Both the Seychelles Islands and the Faeroe Islands studies focus on mercury levels in populations that have high

amounts of fish in their diets. The Faeroe Islands study has not been published, according to Keating. The Seychelles study follows the development of children from birth through about six years of age, Clarkson said.

He said the authors of the study have preliminary results from the first 30 months of these children's lives. The remaining test results, through about five-and-a-half years of age, should be out this summer, he said.

Given that EPA has received only the preliminary conclusions from the Seychelles study, and no part of the Faeroe study, the agency does not have a schedule in place for the release of its report to Congress, Keating said. She said the agency is in negotiations with the Sierra Club over an extension to a Dec. 15, 1995, court-ordered deadline for submitting the report to Congress (*Sierra Club v. EPA*, DC DC, No. 95-0627, 3/31/95). Attorneys for the Sierra Club could not be reached for comment.

The Seychelles were chosen for the study because they contained a large fish-eating population that has been exposed to high levels of mercury, Clarkson said. He said the average level of mercury found in mothers in the study was between 6 parts per million and 7 ppm, compared to about 1 part per million found in the U.S. population. Other confounding factors, such as high levels of alcohol consumption or poor medical care, also were not an issue with the Seychelles population, Clarkson said.

Clarkson said the mercury levels in the test populations for the Seychelles Island studies were determined through analysis of hair from the individuals studied.

"The hair tells you what the blood levels are," he said. He said the researchers were able to determine prenatal levels of mercury in the children through analysis of the mother's hair, adding these numbers indicated the mercury levels in the child's brain at birth.

Further, Clarkson said, researchers were able to confirm the correlation between mercury levels in the mother's hair and levels in the child's brain through a series of autopsies performed on infants that died from other causes. "All previous studies have just assumed this is the case," he said.

— By Alec Zaccaroli and Terry Hammond

Risk Assessment

PESTICIDES, METALS, INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS CHOSEN FOR IRIS UPDATE PROJECT, OFFICIAL SAYS

The risk assessment information on a group of 12 chemicals—including pesticides, metals, and industrial chemicals—will be reviewed in a pilot project aimed at upgrading the publicly accessible database known as the Integrated Risk Information System, the project leader told BNA Feb. 5.

The dozen chemicals were picked because they are contaminants in soil, air, and water, or because a significant amount of new chemical test data have become available to EPA, according to Vanessa Vu, deputy director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Health and Environmental Review Division.

EPA scientists will review and update IRIS entries on arsenic, bentazon, beryllium, chlordane, chromium⁺⁶, chromium⁺³, cumene, methyl methacrylate, methylene diphenyl isocyanate, naphthalene, tributyltin oxide, and vinyl chloride, Vu said. Among the 12 substances for which new data are available is cumene, she added.

The pilot project was designed to implement improvements to the method EPA uses to add chemicals to the

database called for in a July 1994 report on external peer review and public involvement in IRIS. The scientific integrity of the database and EPA's process for managing it also have drawn congressional attention in recent regulatory relief proposals.

EPA To Seek Data From Chemical Makers

A forthcoming *Federal Register* notice from EPA will ask chemical makers to provide health effects data voluntarily on these chemicals to aid the IRIS pilot project, Vu said. Several companies provided this type of information in response to a Feb. 25, 1993, *Federal Register* notice on IRIS, she said (58 FR 11490).

IRIS was created in 1986 to provide a resource of consistent chemical-specific risk information that could be used throughout EPA. The IRIS database contains cancer and non-cancer health hazard information on more than 500 chemicals. The database has information relevant to two of the four parts of a risk assessment—hazard identification and dose-response information. The other two parts of a chemical risk assessment—an exposure assessment and risk characterization—are generated on a case-by-case basis by EPA officials. The database is often consulted by state regulatory agencies, environmental consultants, and EPA regional offices.

At the end of the year-long pilot project, EPA plans to have for each of the 12 substances an updated reference dose, reference concentration value, and cancer potency estimate, Vu said. The non-cancer risk measurements, known as the reference dose and reference concentration value, are estimates of the level of a substance that a person could be exposed to over a lifetime without suffering adverse effects. A cancer potency estimate is the slope of the dose-response curve for a chemical.

The pilot project will employ a revised process for adding and reviewing information in IRIS that includes varying levels of external peer review, Vu said. Historically, two groups of EPA scientists reviewed data and developed IRIS entries, with no public involvement or oversight. If the new process works, EPA expects to adopt the approach to managing the database, she said (19 CRR 856).

NEWS BRIEFS

Comments On ITC's 37th Report Due March 4

Written comments and data on exposure and use of chemicals listed in the 37th Interagency Testing Committee report should be sent to the Environmental Protection Agency by March 4, according to a Feb. 2 notice (61 FR 4188).

Chemical makers were asked to voluntarily provide exposure and use data on nine high-production chemicals listed in the report and 10 isocyanates, according to the notice.

The notice contained the text of the ITC's report, which was released Nov. 22, 1995. A group of 28 alkylphenols and alkylphenol ethoxylates were "recommended" for testing under Section 4 of the Toxic Substances Control Act in part because exposure to them results in reproductive or estrogenic effects, according to the report (19 CRR 892).

One copy of written comments should be sent to John Walker, ITC director, EPA (7401), 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Six copies of written comments bearing docket number (OPPTS-41011) should be sent to the TSCA

Public Docket (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, room B-607, at the above address. For more information, contact Susan Hazen, director, Environmental Assistance Division, (202, 554-1404).

Copps Moved From Canadian Environment Ministry

OTTAWA—Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien shuffled his Cabinet Jan. 25, moving Environment Minister Sheila Copps to the Ministry of Canadian Heritage and replacing her with Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi.

Copps, who was a high-profile environment minister and considered a champion of environmental issues at Cabinet meetings, was responsible for a November 1995 interim order banning exports of polychlorinated biphenyls to the United States for disposal. That order must be made permanent or it will expire by Feb. 28 (19 CRR 891).

The new environment minister, Marchi, was first elected to the House of Commons from Toronto in 1984 and served as the Liberal Party's critic for Immigration, Multiculturalism, Transport, and Labor. After the federal general election in October 1993, Marchi was appointed minister of Citizenship and Immigration and to three Cabinet committees: treasury board, social policy, and program review.

The moves were part of 20 changes to the 33-member Cabinet Chretien made to revitalize his government as it enters the second half of its mandate.

RSPA Issues Materials Research Report

A report on Transportation Department initiatives to support research into advanced materials has been published. DOT's Research and Special Programs Administration announced Jan. 26.

The report was designed to provide a consolidated listing of ongoing and future research projects supported by the agency to help foster materials technologies to improve the durability and reduce the costs of transportation vehicles, facilities, and infrastructure, according to the agency. Opportunities for joint research also are listed in the report.

Among the applications of advanced materials research are the use of composite materials to construct lighter-weight and stronger containers to transport hazardous materials, according to RSPA.

Single copies of the report are available from Technology Sharing Program, DOT, Subsequent Distribution Office, Ardmore East Business Center, 3341-Q 75th Ave., Landover, Md. 20785.

Texas To Study Health Effects Along Border

AUSTIN, Texas—The Texas Department of Health is planning to open four offices along the Texas-Mexico border to focus on the unique health problems of the region, especially those linked to environmental factors, an agency official said Jan. 30.

Glen Provost, associate commissioner of environmental and consumer health for the department, told BNA the staff in the border offices will be looking at industrial pollution, pesticides, household chemicals, and insecticides, as well as basic sanitation, as possible sources of health problems.

Within the next two months, the agency will open offices in El Paso, Laredo, Uvalde, and Harlingen, Provost said. He said the staff will serve as the "eyes and ears" for the entire department, monitoring for environmental exposures that may be contributing to health effects.

In addition to the more common health problems like hepatitis, the border has seen a higher-than-usual incidence

HEAST TABLE 3: CARCINOGENICITY

March 1993

CHEMICAL ROUTE	EXPERIMENT LENGTH		TARGET	CANCER	[EPA GROUP]	[SLOPE FACTOR]		[UNIT RISK]		REFERENCE
	SPECIES					ORAL (mg/kg/day) ⁻¹	INHALATION (mg/kg/day) ⁻¹	ORAL (ug/L) ⁻¹	INHALATION (ug/cm m) ⁻¹	
VINYL CHLORIDE					000075-01-4					
ORAL: DIET	9001 DAYS				A	1.9E+0		5.4E-5		010368
	RAT		LUNG LIVER	TUMORS TUMORS						
ORAL (SLOPE) COMMENT: UNDER REVIEW, NUMBER SUBJECT TO CHANGE.										
INHALATION: INTERMITTENT	1 YEAR				A		3.0E-1		8.4E-5	010367
	RAT		LIVER	TUMORS						

INHALATION (SLOPE) COMMENT: SEE APPENDIX A-II, DOSE CONVERSIONS ON HEAST.

INHALATION (UNIT RISK) COMMENT: UNDER REVIEW, NUMBER SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

GENERAL COMMENT: THE MOST RECENTLY REVIEWED QUANTITATIVE TOXICITY VALUES LISTED HERE APPEAR IN EPA DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN 1984 AND 1985. USE OF THESE VALUES ON AN INTERIM BASIS WAS VALIDATED BY CRAVE (84/05/90). THE AGENCY IS AWARE THAT THESE VALUES DO NOT INCORPORATE CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION THAT IS NOW AVAILABLE. THE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT'S POSITION IS THAT THESE TOXICITY VALUES DO NOT REFLECT STATE-OF-THE-ART SCIENCE FOR VINYL CHLORIDE. EPA NOW HAS INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL DATA, NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THE ORAL UNIT RISK WAS CALCULATED, THAT MAY INFLUENCE THIS VALUE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY BE FACTORED INTO A REVISED QUANTITATIVE TOXICITY VALUE INCLUDES DATA ON INCREASED SENSITIVITY OBSERVED IN YOUNG ANIMALS AND DATA ON METABOLISM/PHARMACOKINETICS. A UNIT RISK FOR AIR THAT CONSIDERS INFORMATION ON YOUNG AGE EXPOSURE INCREASES THE RISK (I.E., LOWERS THE RISK SPECIFIC DOSE) BY AT LEAST 3-FOLD. THE CONSIDERATION OF METABOLISM/PHARMACOKINETICS WILL FURTHER INCREASE THE RISK. ONE UNPUBLISHED PHYSIOLOGICALLY-BASED PHARMACOKINETIC MODEL PREDICTION RESULTS IN A 100-FOLD INCREASED RISK.

CMA 115851