

COMMUNITY AND PLANT ISSUES

IA. CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN REGULATORY AGENCIES

Environmental Justice Advocates Win Complete Relocation in Florida

In late September, EPA announced that it will permanently relocate 358 households from a community adjacent to the Escambia Superfund site in Pensacola, FL. The announcement follows pressure from environmental justice advocates who asserted that relocating only part of the community, as intended by EPA's pilot relocation project at the site, was inappropriate. The action is estimated to cost \$18 million, some of which will be paid by the Department of Housing and Urban Development when it relocates public housing tenants in that community. EPA is currently drafting a national Superfund Relocation policy.

Contact: Lee Salamone at (703) 741-5212.

Environmental Justice Roundtable on Public Participation in Enforcement

On October 17-19, EPA sponsored a national roundtable meeting on Public Participation in Enforcement in San Antonio, TX. Attended by over 185 people, the objective of the meeting was to educate the environmental justice community about EPA enforcement and to generate recommendations on how to increase public participation in that arena. The recommendations will be made by the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to EPA in December.

Contact: Lee Salamone at (703) 741-5212.

Concerns About Electronic Submission of RMP Right-To-Know Data

The first meeting of the EPA stakeholders' work group on Risk Management Program (RMP) data management took place on October 9, 1996. CMA and API expressed their concern about ease of access to specific worst case scenario data (e.g., location of public receptors, estimated impact, plant configuration) for members of the general public outside the local community. Construction of a national RMP database, coupled with accessibility via the Internet, may pose a serious national security risk and expose local communities to potential random acts of terrorism. CMA and API will be advocating database management approaches which create barriers to access to more sensitive data and/or prevent users from retrieving data anonymously.

Contact: Maureen Wood at (703) 741-5217 or email at "maureen_wood@mail.cmahq.com"

EPA/OSHA Accident Investigation

On October 10, 1996, CMA and API jointly submitted comments to OSHA on the draft EPA/OSHA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on accident investigation pursuant to process safety incidents. The MOU is intended to establish the principles for conducting an accident investigation in lieu of the previously considered Chemical Hazard Investigation Board. CMA and API strongly support the concept of a joint agency MOU on accident investigation but believe the draft MOU needs improvement. The CMA/API recommendations focused on 1) strengthening measures to prevent the agencies from using information collected during an accident investigation for compliance audits, and 2) substantially improving the structure of the MOU to eliminate duplication and unnecessary burden when both agencies decide to investigate an incident.

Contact: Maureen Wood at (703) 741-5217 or email at "maureen_wood@mail.cmahq.com"