

OTS Is Preparing Option Paper on Use of Labeling As a Regulatory Option

Although stressing that at this point no commitment has been made to go forward with a Section 6 labeling standard, Kelly pointed out that she has a group of staffers looking at the option of developing a generic labeling standard as an alternative regulatory option under Section 6 (See Jan. 17, Page 2).

DeKany called the effort "development of an issue paper on the pros and cons of labeling" and emphasized that no major manpower commitment will be made to the project until that paper is evaluated.

Kelly observed that if the decision is made to go forward with labeling, it might develop on similar lines to the Section 4 testing rules, in that a labeling standard might be developed first and then, subsequently, labeling rules might be developed to apply the standards to a specific set of chemicals. She also noted that a labeling standard could be adopted voluntarily by industry and said that in some cases it would offer sufficient protection so that other regulation wouldn't be needed. The present interagency effort on labeling would feed into the Section 6 standard development effort if it is determined to proceed with a labeling standard at this time, Kelly said.

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TCDD FOUND IN SOIL AT ORTHOCHLOROPHENOL SPILL SITE IN STURGEON, MO.

A soil sample taken from the site of an orthochlorophenol spill from a railroad tank car in Sturgeon, Mo., last month contained 2,3,7,8-TCDD at a level less than 0.01 p.p.b., according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Monsanto Chemical Company had told the agency that samples of the shipment of orthochlorophenol contained trace amounts of TCDD, according to three sampling results which were 34 p.p.b., 36 p.p.b., and 40 p.p.b., averaging 37 p.p.b.

Dr. Joseph Seifter, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of Toxic Substances, EPA, commented that the presence of TCDD "in the spilled material changes the scope of our review, but does not represent cause for alarm at the levels reported."

The contaminated area is being cleaned up, EPA said, and residents who were evacuated after the spill have returned to their homes. EPA said the TCDD finding "is of concern, but presents no cause for change in clean-up procedures currently underway."

This week, however, an EPA official said even though the levels of TCDD were low, the agency will do biological and in-house monitoring for TCDD in Sturgeon. The agency has also determined that soil clean-up is needed.

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