Pollution file

From the desk of

GEORGE J. LEVINSKAS

phthalate ester file

R.W. Bucknell
P.R. Graham
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MW Farrar R2E
RE Keller
ES Tucker

For your info.

The agenc ... l it has not
yet accum ... nmittee on Nonnutritive
Sweetener ... IEMICAL NEWS, Nov.
27, Page 2

Calorie Cc ... is sponsoring
studies, re ... ng, on the levels
of contami ... in the various tests
with the ar

Also, the C ... etabolism of
saccharin a ... me work on humans.

The Council ... by mid-February.
The Council ... nternational meeting.

~~RHG~~
~~RWR~~
~~JRD~~
JAC
AWM
NWT
MWF

The NAS con ... begin the evaluation of the safety of saccharin following the presentation of the reports from the various testing laboratories around the world.

Meanwhile, plans to hold an international symposium on the scientific aspects of the Delaney anti-cancer clause are moving slowly. A planning group will meet this Spring to schedule speakers for the meeting, which will probably be held in Summer or Fall.

FDA ORDERS SURVEY OF FISH TO DETERMINE LEVELS OF PHTHALATES

The Food and Drug Administration has begun the sampling of fish from the waters of 10 industrial areas to determine the prevalence of pthalate esters in fish contributed by environmental contamination and assess the significance of this contamination.

The agency has become concerned over the environmental threat from phthalates because of the rapid increase in their use.

Little, however, is known of their contribution to the contamination of food. FDA estimates that about 75% are used as plasticizers in the manufacture of vinyl plastics (PVC's), with the remainder utilized in other types of plastics, synthetic rubber, cellulosic resins, gasoline additives, synthetic lubricants, paper, paperboard, cellophane and coatings for both metal and paper products.

Although FDA believes phthalates have a low order of oral toxicity and present no immediate danger to humans, the agency is attempting to determine which foods may pose potential problems.

The phthalate survey, which will be completed by March 1, will concentrate on commercial fish farms and waters from the following areas: (1) Mobile Bay, (2) Chesapeake Bay, (3) Lake Erie (near Cleveland), (4) Ohio River, (5) Lake Michigan (near Gary, Ind. and Chicago), (6) Galveston Bay, (7) Lower Mississippi River, (8) Long Island Sound or Lower New York Harbor, (9) San Francisco Bay, and (10) Puget Sound.

FDA instructed the nine District Offices making the collections to select fish for sampling in the following order of priority:

(1) Fish that are normally sold commercially; (2) Sport fish; and (3) Any other edible fish, including predators.

FDA will make analyses for the following four phthalates:

(1) Di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP); (2) Diisooctyl phthalate (DIOP); (3) Diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP); and (4) Di-n-butyl phthalate.

FDA also ordered some changes in a previously issued program to the field on food additives, revising coverage of the bakery industry from five to 10 firms in each FDA District and expanding the coverage of diethylpyrocarbonate to three additional FDA Districts (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, June 19, Page 3).

NADER GROUP ASKS FDA TO STOP CERTIFYING RED 2

The Health Research Group of the Nader Center for the Study of Responsive Law has petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to prohibit the continued certification of Red No. 2.

Attorney Anita Johnson, petitioning for the Health Research Group and Susan Mazzochi, a married woman of child-bearing age who plans to have children, asked for the end of certification of the color on the basis that it "lacks requisite legal status for certification and because there is substantial evidence that it is toxic."

Calling attention to recent Russian studies (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Jan. 8, Page 2), she said the scientists found the following results from animals fed Red 2 at a dose of 1.5 mg/kg:

In females -- (1) inhibition of estrual cycle; (2) atrophy of ovaries; (3) pregnant animals fed Red 2 had 300% as many fetal deaths as control animals; (4) animals born alive didn't grow as well (weighed less at one month); (5) impaired lactation; and (6) one out of 7 animals born alive died during the first month.

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