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(Current Report, Jan. 21, p. 1188). In December 1982, GAO released a separate report requested by the Senate committee on voluntary industry testing under TSCA (Dec. 17, 1982, p. 1077).

For additional information on the GAO data transfer, contact the TSCA Assistance Office (TS-799), Office of Toxic Substances, EPA, Room E-511, 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, or call (800) 424-9065 toll free or 554-1404 in the Washington, D.C., area.

Meetings

TERMS EXPIRE FOR FOUR ATSAC MEMBERS AFTER MEETING; REAPPOINTMENT UNCERTAIN

The Environmental Protection Agency Administrator's Toxic Substances Advisory Committee will meet June 28 in what may be the last session for four of its members.

Terms scheduled to expire June 30 are those of ATSAC Chairman Dan R. Harlow, an attorney for Diamond Shamrock Corp.; Lloyd W. Hazelton, retired head of Hazelton Industries; Dorothy Power of Denver; and Elizabeth M. Whelan, executive director of the American Council on Science and Health. ATSAC consists of 11 members.

Agency officials said they were uncertain whether any of the members would be reappointed by new EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus. Former EPA head Anne M. Burford declined to extend the terms of Carter Administration appointees, but all members now on the board were selected by the Reagan Administration.

The agenda of the June meeting will include committee recommendations on the Toxic Substances Control Act's application to new substances developed under biotechnology and an update on the Office of Toxic Substances' implementation of the act. The time and location of the meeting are not yet final.

The group last met in March to discuss biotechnology (Current Report, March 23, p. 1413).

Superfund

CONCEPT OF WASTE-END TAX GAINS SUPPORT OF INDUSTRY, SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

The concept of a waste-end tax as opposed to a feedstock tax to finance the superfund law for cleaning up hazardous substance spills and waste sites garnered the support of representatives from environmental groups and the Chemical Manufacturers Association at a May 24 press conference.

Reps. Claudine Schneider (R-RJ) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore) introduced a bill last month to reauthorize the superfund and to shift the law's financing from a tax on chemical feedstocks to a tax on hazardous waste disposal (Current Report, April 22, p. 179). Schneider and Wyden May 24 reintroduced the measure in a more simplified form.

The bill incorporates recommendations made two months ago by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment to provide an economic incentive to reduce the generation of waste and to discourage land disposal (March 18, p. 1396).

Schneider told the gathering that by charging a disposal tax of \$75 a ton on toxic waste and \$25 a ton on non-toxic wastes, an economic incentive would be created to reduce hazardous waste generation and land disposal, now the cheapest form of waste disposal.

Wyden said that by creating a logical connection between tax paid and the ultimate quantity of waste produced,

"the disposal of wastes would then become a direct cost of doing business and would enter into the domain of 'bottom line' management decisions."

Industry, Environmental Support

William Stover, vice president and director of government relations for CMA, said the industry supports replacing the feedstock tax with waste-end tax because the concept is environmentally sound, provides a "clear economic incentive," and "replaces an inequitable approach with one that is fair."

Stover said, however, that industry does not support any specific legislative proposal pending in Congress because several questions need to be addressed, including what event triggers collection of the tax and who pays the tax. He said the disposal of wastes should trigger the tax on the ultimate disposer of hazardous wastes.

Asked whether the chemical industry would support reauthorization of the superfund law, Stover responded that by the time the statute expires in 18 months, the industry will have a better picture of whether the law needs to be reauthorized. Adoption of a waste-end tax mechanism "would make that [reauthorization] a lot easier," he acknowledged.

Support for the bill was echoed by Kenneth Kamlet, director of pollution and toxic substances for the National Wildlife Federation; Sidney Wolf, legislative representative of Environmental Action; and John McCormick, a spokesman for the Environmental Policy Center.

Kamlet said details that need to be addressed in the legislation include assuring that the fee structure will provide necessary funding levels throughout the 10-year reauthorization period; recognizing that the fee structure and economic incentives supplement rather than supplant the hazardous waste regulatory program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and distinguishing between toxic and non-toxic wastes and between true recycling and questionable disposal schemes to escape taxation.

Carcinogens

OSHA VINYL CHLORIDE CASE WAS LESSON TO HEED ANIMAL DATA, INFANTE MAINTAINS

VANCOUVER, B.C. — (By a BNA Staff Correspondent) — The experience of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in regulating vinyl chloride as a workplace carcinogen serves "as a lesson in the peril of ignoring experimental evidence of carcinogenicity," an agency researcher told a May 18 session of the International Conference on Cancer in the Workplace.

Peter F. Infante, who directs the OSHA office of carcinogen identification and classification but was presenting his own views as a private researcher, said in "Vinyl Chloride: A Case History of Regulatory Action in Relation to Scientific Knowledge of Cancer-Causing Effects" that a review of developments prior and subsequent to the agency's 1974 issuance of an emergency temporary standard regulating vinyl chloride exposure as a cancer hazard showed the utility of relying upon laboratory bioassays when surveillance of human populations proves inadequate to detect workplace epidemics.

Animal evidence published in 1971 showed tumor induction from inhalation to 30,000 parts per million of vinyl chloride but it drew little response because the exposure levels were so high they bordered on the chemical's lower explosive limit, Infante said. He continued that researchers

presented unpublished evidence the same year to chemical companies showing what industry scientists viewed as a demonstration of tumor excesses in rats exposed to as low as 5,000 ppm.

These, along with interim findings measuring effects at levels lower than 500 ppm, were kept confidential "to avoid overreaction by the Department of Labor and [the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health]," Infante said, quoting from internal Union Carbide Corp. correspondence.

Government, labor, and private researchers did not learn of the "expanding knowledge of the carcinogenicity of vinyl chloride" until January 1974, he stated, when industry representatives notified the government of two deaths from liver angiosarcoma that occurred 27 months apart among workers who cleaned reactor vessels at a B.F. Goodrich plant in Louisville, Ky. "Almost simultaneously, the findings of liver angiosarcoma in rats exposed to vinyl chloride were made public," he added.

May Have Gone Undetected

OSHA promulgated an emergency temporary standard in April 1974 on the basis of this information, Infante stated. "Had it not been for the identification of vinyl chloride-induced cancers in workers, a standard probably would not have been promulgated in such an expeditious manner," he argued. "Furthermore, had the initial cancers observed in workers not been of a rare type, the carcinogenicity of vinyl chloride in humans may have gone undetected."

In addition, it was not until "much later" that the government learned of eight liver angiosarcoma cases at a single Canadian plant occurring between 1955 and 1973 in workers who died at age 53 or younger. "Not a single epidemiologic study had been completed at the time of the 1974 [OSHA] hearings, and, as preliminary results began to unfold, an epidemic was apparent," Infante said.

OSHA's remaining unaware of the Canadian deaths during its rulemaking proceedings "does not leave one with much confidence in the current practice of epidemiological cancer surveillance," he argued, adding that "one can rarely rely upon medical reports of cancer to detect workplace epidemics." He pointed instead to the utility of laboratory studies to uncover hazards before they become apparent in humans.

Hazardous Waste

COMMENT SOUGHT ON EXTRACTION METHOD FOR TOXICITY OF HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM

The Environmental Protection Agency is extending the comment period on a proposal to amend hazardous waste management regulations to make the extraction procedure for determining toxicity apply to hexavalent chromium instead of total chromium, the agency announced May 17 (48 FR 22170).

EPA made the proposal in October 1980 because, it said, the "two normally occurring valence states of chromium, tri- and hexavalent, present sufficiently different levels of environmental risk to warrant a regulatory distinction."

According to the agency, trivalent chromium is less toxic, has significantly lower migratory potential, and is less mobile than hexavalent chromium.

In extending the comment period to Aug. 15, EPA solicited information about documented instances of environmental settings in which trivalent chromium converted to hexavalent chromium when released from a land disposal or storage site.

Comments also were sought on documented instances in which trivalent chromium leached from a landfill, surface impoundment, or land treatment facility.

In addition, EPA asked for comments on any evidence indicating that trivalent chromium is toxic to humans when ingested, on the hazard posed by trivalent chromium to the aquatic environment, and on the need for regulation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Comments may be submitted to Docket Clerk, Docket No. 261-83-4 Hexavalent Chromium, Office of Solid Waste (WH-565), EPA, 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.