

**Health & Environment B U L L E T I N**

Monthly Newsletter

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LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY HIGHLIGHTS

Federally Permitted Releases. On July 11, EPA issued a supplemental notice to its proposed rule on federally permitted releases under CERCLA. Currently, many types of oil industry releases are exempt from CERCLA reporting requirements because they have Federal Clean Air Act permits; however, this proposal would eliminate some of the exemptions. API's response will point out that EPA's interpretation is much more narrow than Congress intended. (Lisa Thomas x8323)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Ozone SIPs. API contractors are examining the reasons why seven cities are failing to attain the ozone standard. These cities indicated in their 1982 State Implementation Plans (SIPs) that they would meet the standard by 1987. Preliminary results indicate that the SIP commitments were generally fulfilled but that emissions inventories available at the time may have been inadequate; EPA's guidance may also have been too simplistic. The final report will be available in October. (Howard Feldman x8340)

Benzene. A grant is being awarded to the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology to continue the ongoing research investigating an animal model of benzene-related leukemia. Mice of two strains, exposed to benzene for 3 months, will be held for life to characterize their leukemogenic responses. In addition, studies will be initiated to identify the metabolite(s) responsible for benzene toxicity and leukemogenesis, characterize the roles of liver and bone marrow in metabolism, and relate exposure dose to dose of active metabolites in the target organ. (Edmond Vernot x8342)

COMMENTS FILED/COMPLETED REPORTS

Toxicity Characteristic Petition. On July 27, API petitioned EPA to repropose its rulemaking on the waste toxicity characteristic (TC). The TC is a procedure to determine whether a waste should be defined and handled as hazardous due to its toxicity and thereby subject to stringent RCRA

requirements. API estimates that the cost to the petroleum industry alone would be \$4.6 billion per year. The key issues raised in the petition are the impacts of the rule, the significant technical flaws in the procedure, and lack of opportunity for public comment on important aspects of the rule. (Sharon Kneiss x8476)

Drinking Water Standards. On August 21, API submitted comments on EPA's Phase II drinking water standards proposal (54 FR 22062). The comments recommend that the "zero risk policy" for carcinogens be changed and suggest that the methodology for deriving MCLGs for noncarcinogens be modified. Specific toxicological input is included for eight chemicals of particular interest. (Stephanie Meadows x8475)

API Publications (Order from the Publications Section, API x8375)

Effects of Offshore Petroleum Operations on Cold Water Marine Mammals: A Literature Review, API #4485 (\$33)

Assessment of the Adaptability of the API Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery System to the Current Vehicle Population, API #4489 (\$8)

Measuring Natural Resource Damages: An Economic Appraisal, API #4490 (\$16)

Effect of Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Surface Roughness on Heavier-than-Air Gas Dispersion, Volumes I & II, API #4491/4492 (\$27 each)

Fuel Weathering, API #4493 (\$8)

Monitoring Near Refineries for Airborne Chemicals on the SARA Title III Section 313 List -- Volume II: A Generic Study Design Protocol, API #4494 (\$20)

Monitoring Near Refineries for Airborne Chemicals on the SARA Title III Section 313 List -- Volume III: Literature Survey, API #4495 (\$6)

Monitoring Near Refineries for Airborne Chemicals on the SARA Title II Section 313 List -- Volume IV: Sampling and Analytical Protocols for Selected

SARA Title III Chemicals in Airborne Emissions,
API #4496 (\$25)

Departmental Reports (Order from the
Information Specialist, HESD x8319)

28-Day Dermal Toxicity Study of API 85-01
(Stoddard Solvent) in the Rabbit

Assay of the Vapor Phase of Commercial Hexane
Using the Desiccator Methodology

Short-term Dermal Tumorigenesis Study of Selected
Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Male CD-1 Mice --
Initiation and Promotion Phases

Three-Generation Reproduction/Fertility Study in
Rats with C9 Aromatic Hydrocarbons

MEETINGS

Meetings Held (Minutes may be obtained by
contacting the staff person noted.)

Waste Program Group -- August 3 (Sharon Kneiss
x8476)

Air Fuels Program Group -- August 17 (Carol
Scott x8481)

Water Program Group -- August 22 (Frank Prince x8339)

Upcoming Meetings

Health and Product Safety Program Group --
September 11, San Francisco (Anita Ducca x8326,
David Mongillo x8341)

Air/Fuels Program Group -- September 14, API
Headquarters (Carol Scott x8481)

Health and Environment Subcommittee -- September
20, Los Angeles (Eldon Rucker x8313)

Waste Program Group -- September 28, API
Headquarters (Sharon Kneiss x8476)

Health and Environment Annual Meeting -- October
23-27, Houston, Inn on the Park. A schedule of
business meetings for October 23, 26, and 27 has
been distributed. Plenary sessions on the 24th
will focus on the role of "good science" in
regulatory decision making, impact of
environmental decision-making capacity of state
governments versus that of the federal government,
and evolution in environmental ethics. There will
also be four discussion groups focusing on topics
of the speaker's choice. Sessions on October 25
will include the Management Committee's STF
effort; client presentations reviewing future
health/environmental issues of concern; summaries
of API activity on key issues; and updates on

RCRA, epidemiology, clean air/auto-oil
deliberations, and PIRO. A final schedule will be
distributed in early September. (Madeleine
Sellouk x8332)

MISCELLANEOUS

**API Adopts a Global Climate Change Position
Paper.** In July, the Public Policy Committee
adopted a position on Global Climate Change
prepared by the HEGC Global Climate Change Task
Force, which recommends that a responsible U.S.
policy should contain three broad tenets. First,
the uncertainty concerning potential impacts of
both climate changes and governmental policies
must be recognized. Second, because climate
change would have global consequences,
international cooperation and coordination are
essential. Third, the U.S. should take steps now
that are consistent with broader economic or
environmental goals. (Anne Fellows x8578)

Joint DOI/API Spill Response Research Program.

Six areas of research for immediate
implementation have been recommended to DOI's
Minerals Management Service (MMS): Thickness
Sensor - addresses development of an airborne oil
thickness sensor; Evaluation of Oil Skimmers -
addresses effectiveness of current skimmer
capabilities; Behavior of Heavy Oil - a modeling
study of oils that are of "neutral" buoyancy;
In-Situ Burning - development work on burning
technology; Chemical Treatment - evaluate
dispersant effectiveness/fate and effects; and
Beach/Shoreline Cleanup - evaluate environmental
impact of shoreline cleanup technology being
tested in Prince William Sound including recovery
of the ecosystems. A written agreement for this
program is being negotiated. Once it is signed,
MMS and API should move forward to define the
scope of projects and implement them. Jack Gould
will be technical manager of the program for API.
(Jack Gould x8321)

**Court Ruling on Natural Resource Damage
Assessment.** On July 14, the D.C. Circuit Court
rendered decisions on ten issues in the case of
the State of Ohio versus DOI. The rulings were in
favor of industry on seven issues. Two of the
adverse issues could have severe economic impacts
on the industry. Copies of an analysis of the
decisions are available. (Jack Gould x8321)

HESD/HEAD Budget Deficits. At the present
time, both HEAD and HESD are anticipating
operating budget deficits due in part to increases
in travel and meeting expenses. Therefore, it is
requested whenever possible for the rest of 1989
that meetings be held in the API offices in
Washington, D.C. (Robert Drew x8308)