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Sent: 5/1/2020 6:02:35 PM
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Subject: SAB request on reusable/antiviral PPE

Saw this in the trade press today. We have a member who has developed a product that can be used to make PPE that is antiviral, antimicrobial and washable without diminishing effectiveness. I believe they're very close to scaling up manufacturing and they have a bunch of recently-completed studies that confirm the product's efficacy. To the extent you'd ever like to talk with them, let me know. I'd be very happy to make the connection.

PANDEMIC

Science panel: EPA should study reusable PPE, aerosols

Ariana Figueroa, E&E News reporter Published: Friday, May 1, 2020

An independent science panel yesterday suggested that EPA explore the use of antibacterial technology to help stop the spread of the coronavirus and research ways to make personal protective equipment reusable.

EPA asked the Science Advisory Board to provide input on the agency's research needs for understanding the human and environmental impacts of COVID-19 and identifying research activities that could enhance the agency's response to the virus (*E&E News PM*, April 28).

At a four-hour virtual meeting yesterday, SAB member Robert Phalen asked the agency whether it had considered using nanosilver, an antibacterial spray used in food packaging, to spray on public surfaces such as benches and mass transportation areas.

Another member, Michael Jayjock, said EPA might need to look at the possibility of disinfectants that can be used to kill the virus in the air. Researchers have found the virus can hang in the air for several hours.

But Jayjock cautioned that the agency should also assess the exposure risks of inhaling the aerosol sprays.

"There is every reason to believe that aerosol exposure is critical in the risk assessment of COVID-19 and should be included in any planned research program," he said.

The panel also suggested that the agency look into personal protective equipment technology that can either kill pathogens that come in contact with the material or use PPE that is washable. The panel argued that reusable PPE could help address the shortage in supplies.

An EPA official told the panel that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have not found the virus in drinking water and that normal filtration systems are effective.

"EPA has been letting Americans know they can continue to drink water from their tap as usual," said Charlotte Bertrand, EPA's deputy assistant administrator for water.

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