

understanding of existing and new data that pertain to the use of a laboratory procedure for testing the effects of carpet emissions on laboratory mice. This meeting is part of an ongoing effort to gather data and information that will assist EPA in determining steps necessary to understand concerns about carpet.

DATES: The meeting has been scheduled for September 15, 1993. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and end at approximately 5 p.m. It will be open to the public, subject to availability of space.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City, 1250 S. Hayes Street, Arlington, VA 22202, Tel. (703) 415-5000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Dyer, Health Effects Research Laboratory (MD 51A), Office of Research and Development, Environmental Protection Agency, 86 Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 27711.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public and the scientific community are becoming increasingly aware of concerns over potential health effects caused by exposure to indoor sources of pollutants. EPA has statutory authority under title IV of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act to conduct research on this and other indoor air issues.

In 1992, an independent testing laboratory, Anderson Laboratories, Inc. (AL), reported test results indicating that pulmonary irritation, neurotoxicity, and in some cases death were seen in laboratory mice exposed to carpet emissions. To better understand these findings, EPA conducted a formal study to replicate, in parallel testing with AL, the reported findings. The results of the EPA tests were reported in May of 1993. They indicate that EPA did not replicate the AL findings. The caliber of EPA's scientific effort was affirmed to adhere to good laboratory practices and to be of the highest scientific quality as determined by independent peer reviewers who evaluated the study design, resulting data, and conclusions.

In the interim, several other laboratories in academia and industry have independently conducted studies to replicate the AL findings. In addition, both EPA and AL have gained additional experience in using the procedure.

At the September 15 meeting, scientists with working knowledge in using this laboratory procedure will present data and summarize their experience related to carpet emissions before four invited scientific peers.

These scientists will be asked to join in subsequent discussions about this laboratory procedure, the resulting data, and their implication for future research. The meeting will provide a period for public questions. A second meeting is planned for an as-yet-undetermined date to discuss carpet-related health complaints reported by affected individuals. This meeting will include participation by government scientists, physicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of these reported health complaints, scientists from other disciplines, and representatives from the carpet industry. The goal of this second meeting will be to identify future research that is needed to gain a better understanding of the nature and causes of reported health complaints from exposure to carpet. Once a date and location are determined, EPA will announce this meeting in the Federal Register.

EPA has invited four independent peer reviewers and other scientists with hands-on experience with this laboratory procedure to participate in discussions. The meeting will be open and provide a period for public questions. Eastern Research Group, Inc., an EPA contractor, is providing logistical support for the workshop. For further information on technical issues, contact the Health Effects Research Laboratory as noted above. For further information on the meeting, or to register to attend, contact Elaine Brenner, Eastern Research Group, Inc., 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02173, Telephone: (617) 674-7334.

Dated: August 27, 1993.

Gary J. Foley,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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[OPPTS-80016A; FRL-4645-3]

TSCA Section 8(e); Notice of Clarification and Solicitation of Public Comment

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of clarification; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This Notice extends by 45 days the solicitation of public comment on certain refinements to EPA's policy concerning the mandatory reporting of information under section 8(e), the "substantial risk" information reporting provision of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq. (July 13, 1993, 58 FR 37735).

Specifically, comments are sought on EPA's section 8(e) policy refinements concerning mandatory reporting of information on the release of chemical substances to, and the detection of chemical substances in, environmental media. Comments are also sought on specific refinements made to EPA's policy concerning the reporting deadline for written "substantial risk" information and the circumstances under which certain information need not be reported to EPA under section 8(e) of TSCA. EPA is extending the comment period because it has received request from several commenters asking that additional time be given for the formulation and submission of comments.

DATES: Written comments on the reporting guidance must be received by EPA no later than October 28, 1993.

ADDRESSES: All comments should reference the docket number "OPPTS-80016" and must be transmitted in triplicate to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPT Document Control Officer, Attn: TSCA Document Receipts (TS-790), ET G-99, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (TS-799), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 554-1404, TDD: (202) 554-0551.

Dated: August 27, 1993.

Susan H. Wayland,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

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