UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 28 2001

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

A Note to Readers:

These draft documents contain the most current hazard and exposure assessment data. These data, as well as the scientific recommendations we receive, will be used to conduct an assessment on the potential risks to children from exposure to playground equipment built with lumber pressure-treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA). By way of background, hazard identification and exposure characterization are the first steps in the risk assessment process.

The Agency is presenting these documents to an independent panel of scientific experts, the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). In addition to asking the SAP to review the soundness and validity of these assessments, the Agency is also asking the Panel to identify any areas that may require additional data. Indeed, scientific documents of this sort always reflect only the work and analysis conducted at the time they are produced. It is common and appropriate that, as new information becomes available and/or additional analyses are performed, the conclusions may change. As such, these assessments are subject to change based on information we receive through the review process.

The SAP was established under Federal pesticide law to provide the EPA with scientific advice on pesticides and pesticide related issues. As an independent panel, the SAP serves as the primary scientific peer review mechanism for EPA, particularly with regard to the scientific foundation for the health and environmental regulatory decisions. Along with these documents, the Agency is submitting specific questions to invite the SAP's peer review of EPA's assessments. These questions are available on EPA's Web site. Consistent with EPA's commitment to maintaining open and transparent decision-making processes, all SAP meetings are open to the public.

EPA is committed to protecting human health and the environment from the risks posed by pesticides. Rigorous scientific review and extensive public participation are essential for ensuring EPA's decisions are appropriate and sound. EPA looks forward to a constructive and fruitful dialogue with the scientific community, environmental and public interest groups, industry, state and local officials, and all concerned citizens.

Sincerely,

Frank Sanders,
Director
Antimicrobial Division