

Exposure and Use Assessment Peer Review Charge Questions:

Section 6(h) of the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA), as amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take expedited action to propose rules under TSCA with respect to chemicals identified in EPA's 2014 Update of the TSCA Work Plan for Chemical Assessments and meeting criteria relating to persistence, bioaccumulation and toxicity (PBT) and other factors. EPA must issue a proposed rule no later than June 22, 2019, with a final rule to follow no more than 18 months later.

EPA has developed the Exposure and Use Assessment for the five chemical substances it has identified for proposed action under TSCA section 6(h) ("PBT chemicals"). This Exposure and Use Assessment will be used by EPA in determining, under TSCA section 6(h)(1)(B), whether exposure to each identified PBT is likely, under the conditions of use.

EPA conducted a comprehensive literature review to identify, screen, extract, and evaluate exposure information for the five PBT chemicals addressed in the Exposure and Use Assessment. EPA also compiled physical-chemical properties and information on uses. Exposure information was categorized as core and/or supplemental. Core exposure data were defined as any environmental monitoring, biomonitoring, modeled environmental concentration, or modeled dose data. Supplemental exposure data were defined as any environmental fate or engineering data that provided information related to potential exposure sources and environmental pathways.

The Exposure and Use Assessment presents available exposure information and integrates the information by environmental media or biological matrix. EPA also provides some context for the sources and environmental pathways that may have contributed to concentrations detected in environmental and biological monitoring studies. EPA did not generate quantitative exposure scenarios for each use identified for the chemical in this document. However, some qualitative interpretation based on the reported data is provided in the Exposure and Use Assessment.

Please provide a separate response to questions for each one of the 5 chemicals as appropriate:

1. This information, when finalized will inform a technical support document to support document to support EPA's regulatory activities on PBTs. Please comment on the organization and structure of this document to inform this use. Do you have specific recommendations to improve clarity and presentation of this information?

2. Please comment on the clarity of the descriptions of how the data were searched for, screened, and evaluated for inclusion in the exposure assessment.
3. Please identify any additional information and data sources that EPA should also consider.
4. Due to the large number of references identified during the literature search for Decabromodiphenyl ether, EPA used a prioritization approach to evaluate and extract exposure data for this chemical. Please comment on the prioritization approach that was used for Decabromodiphenyl ether (see section A.2.4 of the Supplemental Information for the Exposure and Use Assessment document). Please comment on whether further characterization lower priority studies is expected to significantly affect the exposure characterization for Decabromodiphenyl ether. Please comment on the strengths/limitations associated with prioritizing use of studies/data sources with larger sample sizes versus smaller sample sizes.
5. EPA identified specific core exposure data: environmental monitoring, biomonitoring, estimated environmental concentrations, or estimated doses. Please comment on any additional core data that EPA should evaluate for each chemical.
6. Please comment on the approach to consider read-across of data from similar chemical substances for Phenol, isopropylated, phosphate (3:1) (PIP (3:1)) and 2,4,6-Tris(tert-butyl) phenol (2,4,6 TTBP).
7. Please comment on whether EPA has appropriately captured the exposure scenarios. Please identify any existing exposure scenarios EPA may have missed. Please keep in mind the purpose of this document is to inform regulatory decisions under TSCA only.
8. Please comment on whether inclusion of additional information on monitoring data would significantly enhance the exposure assessment for the intended purpose of this document. For example, characterization of sampling year vs. study year, characterization of free vs. particle bound chemicals in water and air, lipid normalization for biomonitoring data, and further characterization of studies that had incomplete reporting for their limits of detection. Please identify any specific chemicals for which this additional information would be helpful.
9. Please comment on the reliability and relevance of the identified data sets for each chemical and on the strengths and weaknesses of individual data sets that will help to better inform future regulatory actions.