



Workshop on Furniture Refinishing and Methylene Chloride

U.S. Dial-in Number: (833) 679-7657

September 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. EDT

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Public Workshop on Use of Methylene Chloride in Furniture Refinishing

**EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy
EPA Region 1 Office**

September 12, 2017



Welcome Remarks

Susan Studien
Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship
Environmental Protection Agency Region 1, Boston MA



EPA's Work on Methylene Chloride

Maria J. Doa, PhD
Director, Chemical Control Division
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics



The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act

- On June 22, 2016, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) was amended and updated
- New authorities and responsibilities for EPA to increase safety of existing chemicals



EPA Risk Assessment

- From a 2014 risk assessment, EPA found health risks to workers and consumers who use methylene chloride-containing paint removal products, and to bystanders in workplaces and residences where methylene chloride is used.
- Short-term exposures can have neurotoxic effects, including confusion, incapacitation, and death.
- Long-term exposures can cause liver toxicity, liver or lung cancer.



Proposed Rule January 2017

- EPA issued a proposed rule under Section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to prohibit the manufacture (including import), processing, and distribution in commerce of methylene chloride for all consumer and most types of commercial paint removal, and to prohibit commercial use.



Furniture Refinishing

- This proposal deferred action on use of methylene chloride in furniture refinishing due to data gaps related to cost impacts and alternatives.
- EPA seeks additional information on the potential economic impacts to furniture refinishers.



Goals of the Workshop

- Better understand current trends and challenges in furniture refinishing with methylene chloride.
- Better understand existing work practices.
- Understand the economic considerations involved in selecting a coating removal product.
- Bring together federal state governments, industry professionals, furniture restoration experts, non-government organizations, and academic experts.
- Address questions presented during previous consultations and in the proposed rule.



Questions Stated in the Proposed Rule

1. What percentage of shop-owner's business in this sector is dependent on methylene chloride?
2. What are some anticipated impacts on furniture refinishing professionals if methylene chloride is regulated in the future?
3. What characteristics are important when selecting a chemical to remove finishes on furniture?
4. Are there safer alternatives available or under development?
5. What has been the experience and work practices for use of personal protective equipment, or PPE, ventilation systems, or other engineering controls?
6. Is there any information on exposures to people refinishing furniture?



SBA Welcome Remarks

David Rostker
Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy
Assistant Chief Counsel for Environment and Regulatory Reform



Information Needed for Economic Analysis

Judith Brown

**Chemistry, Economics and Sustainable Strategies Division,
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, EPA**



Safer and Effective Solvents for Paint Stripping

Greg Morose
Toxics Use Reduction Institute



Safer Alternatives to Methylene Chloride Paint Strippers for Furniture Stripping

Katy Wolf
Institute for Research and Technical Assistance



Public Input

Make a comment over the phone:

- Press STAR ONE on your telephone keypad, and you will be placed into a queue.
- To withdraw your question press the POUND KEY.



Break
Return at 11:00 AM EDT



Use of Methylene Chloride, Citrus Based Products, Steam in Paint Removal

Caleb Hemphill

Preservation Carpenter, Falmouth, ME



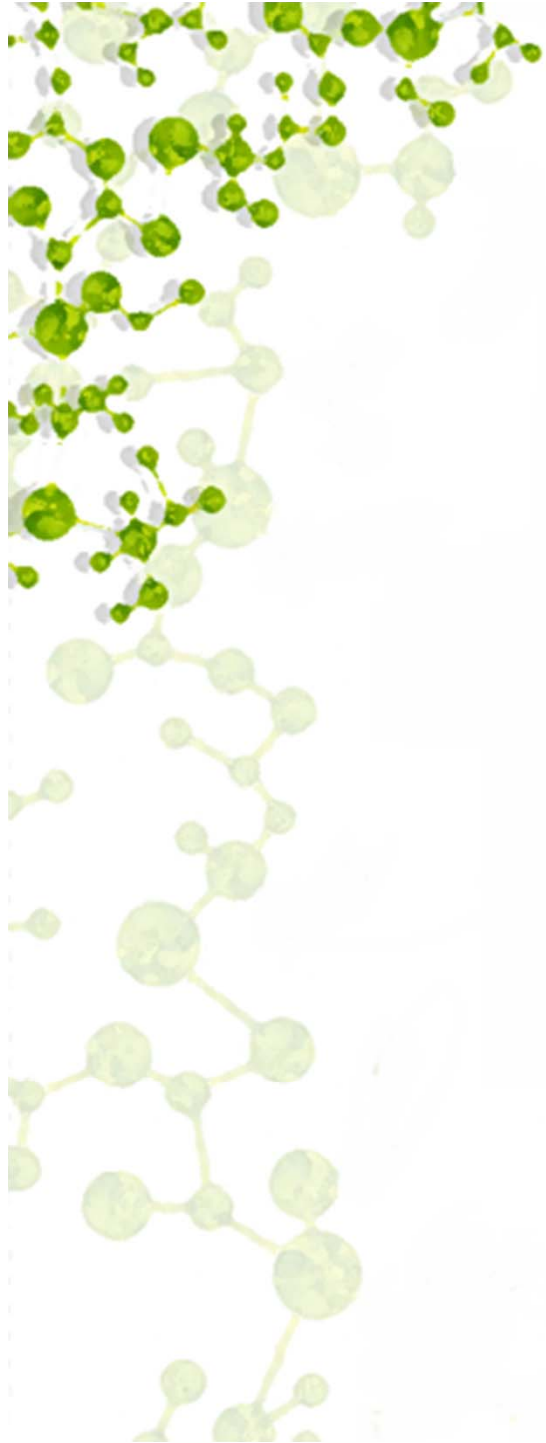
Use of Methylene Chloride and Alternatives in Furniture Refinishing

**Guy Woods
Green Products Company**



Use of Methylene Chloride and Alternatives in Furniture Refinishing

Valeri Lennon and Benny Bixenman
Benco Sales



Break
Return at 1:00 PM EDT



Analysis of Waste Disposal Practices from Furniture Refinishing Facilities

Tod Leedberg

**New Hampshire DES, Hazardous Waste Compliance
Section**



Use of Methylene Chloride and Alternatives in Furniture Refinishing

Patrick Mitchell
The Strip Joint, CA



Perspective from the NGO Community

Lindsay McCormick
Environmental Defense Fund



Break
Return at 2:20 PM EDT



Use of Methylene Chloride and Current Research on Alternative Paint Removal Chemicals

Dennis Shireman
WM Barr



State of the Furniture Refinishing Industry, Use of Methylene Chloride, and Work Practices

Dave Macfee
Macfee Refinishing, KS



Activities in California on Methylene Chloride

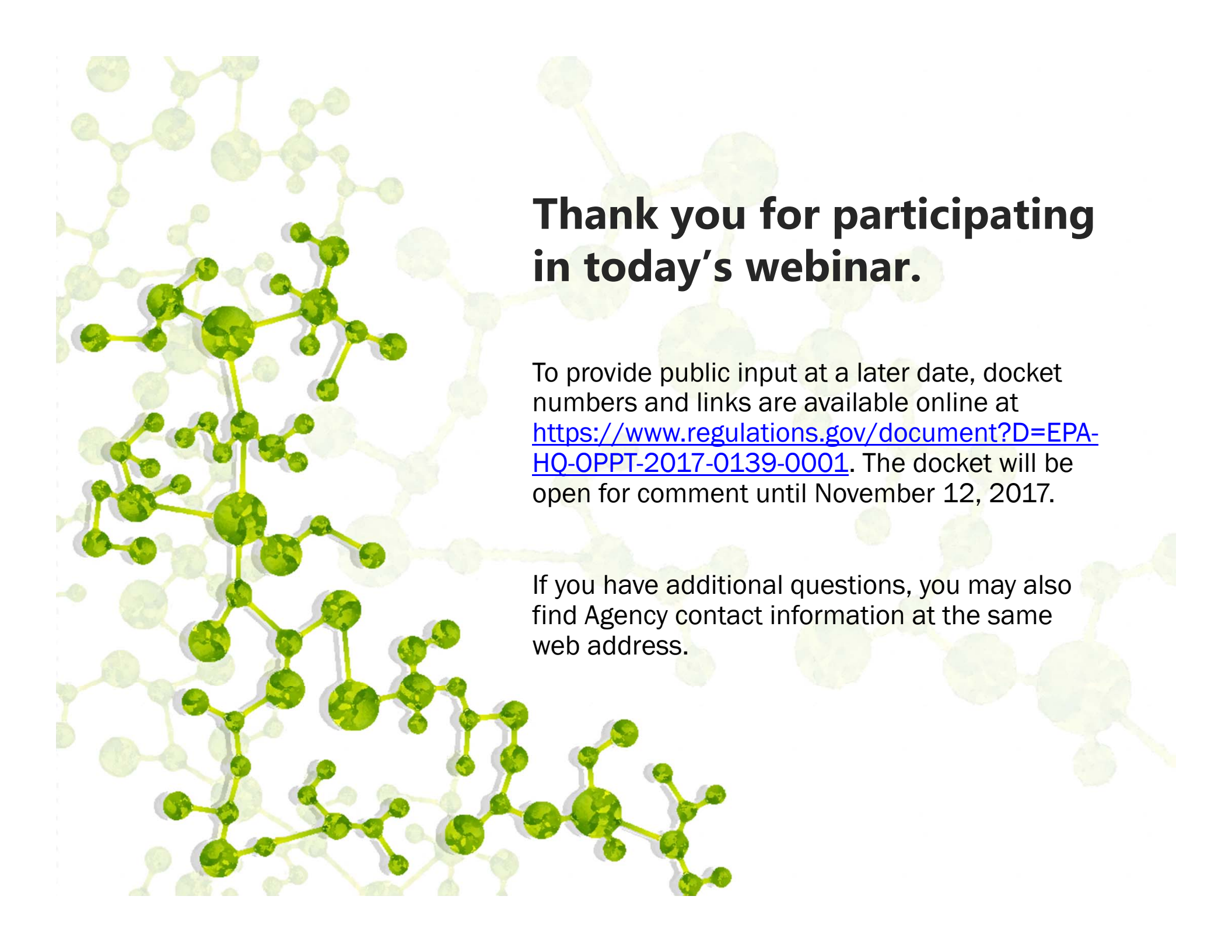
Bob Harrison
California Department of Public Health



Public Input

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Thank you for participating in today's webinar.

To provide public input at a later date, docket numbers and links are available online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0139-0001>. The docket will be open for comment until November 12, 2017.

If you have additional questions, you may also find Agency contact information at the same web address.