

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6219-3]

Technical Workshop on Perchlorate Risk Issues

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: EPA is announcing a workshop convened by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI), an EPA contractor, for external scientific peer review of the EPA draft document entitled "Perchlorate Environmental Contamination: Toxicological Review and Risk Characterization Based on Emerging Information." The workshop will be held in San Bernardino, California, and will be open to members of the public as observers. The peer review, to be conducted by scientists from outside EPA, is being organized to assist in completing the toxicological review and risk characterization of perchlorate, and will include the protocols and reports of recent studies on perchlorate, as well as EPA's draft Toxicological Review document. Stakeholders in the perchlorate issue who have additional information which is relevant to the assessment of the potential health and ecological effects of perchlorate are invited to make a short presentation of this information at the peer review workshop.

DATES: The workshop will begin on Wednesday, February 10, 1999 at 8:30 a.m. and end on Thursday, February 11, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. Members of the public may attend as observers.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the San Bernardino City Council Chambers, 300 North D Street, San Bernardino, California 92418. Since seating capacity is limited, please contact Ella Darden of RTI, by telephone, at 919-541-7026; by facsimile, at 919-541-7155; or by E-mail, at ejd@rti.org, by January 31, 1999 to attend the workshop as an observer. Observers who wish to make a short presentation of information which may be relevant to the assessment of potential health and ecological effects of perchlorate should register to do so with RTI by January 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical and logistical inquiries, contact Ella Darden, Research Triangle Institute, by telephone, at 919-541-7026; by facsimile, at 919-541-7155; or by E-mail, at ejd@rti.org. Copies of the draft Toxicological Review document will be available for inspection on EPA's National Center for Environmental

Assessment web site (<http://www.epa.gov/ncea/>), at EPA's Regional Superfund Records Centers, and at the EPA Headquarters Information Resources Center, Washington DC. Inquiries concerning additional opportunities for document review should be directed to Ella Darden at Research Triangle Institute.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

EPA is in the process of conducting a toxicological review for perchlorate, including the development of a revised provisional reference dose (RfD), a cancer assessment, and an ecological assessment. An RfD is an estimate of a daily oral human exposure that will result in no deleterious noncancer effects over a lifetime. Ideally, an RfD is based on an array of endpoints that address potential toxicity during various critical life stages, from developing fetus through adult and reproductive stages. The noncancer, cancer and ecological assessments may be used to support development of a health advisory and/or drinking water regulations and cleanup decisions at hazardous waste sites. In accordance with EPA's 1998 Peer Review Handbook, a key step in the development of the Toxicological Review document for perchlorate is the upcoming external peer review, in the form of a workshop, which will cover protocols for and reports of the recently completed toxicity studies, the Toxicological Review document, and the proposed revised provisional RfD, cancer assessment and ecological assessment in that document.

EPA's Superfund Technical Support Center issued a provisional RfD for perchlorate in 1992 and a revised provisional RfD in 1995. The provisional RfD values (1992 and 1995) were based on an acute study in which single doses of potassium perchlorate caused the release of iodide from the thyroids of patients with Graves' Disease. The provisional RfD values did not undergo internal Agency, or external, peer review. In March of 1997 a peer review panel convened by an independent organization, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA), determined that the health effects and toxicity data for perchlorate were insufficient to generate a credible RfD for risk assessment purposes. The reviewers were concerned that developmental toxicity, notably neurological development due to hypothyroidism during pregnancy, could be a critical health effect of perchlorate that has not been adequately examined in studies to date. They also

concluded that insufficient data were available on potential effects of perchlorate on organs and tissues other than the thyroid.

New Health Effects/Toxicology Studies Underway

As a result of that peer review, a set of toxicological and ecological studies was undertaken is underway to address key data gaps and provide a comprehensive database related to the toxicity of perchlorate. The studies are being funded and overseen by a variety of organizations with potential responsibility for perchlorate contamination in the environment including the United States Air Force, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Perchlorate Study Group (PSG).¹

To date, a 90-day subchronic oral study, a neurobehavioral developmental toxicity study, genotoxicity studies, a segment II developmental toxicity study, and ecotoxicity studies in *Daphnia*, earthworms, lettuce and fathead minnow have been completed. Currently ongoing studies include a two-generation reproductive toxicity study, absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination (ADME) studies, perchlorate mechanistic studies, and immunotoxicity studies. The results of most of these studies will be discussed in the Toxicological Review document and utilized for development of the proposed revised RfD, and cancer and ecological assessment for perchlorate.

Ten independent scientists from the fields of general toxicology, thyroid function and toxicology, developmental toxicology, neurotoxicology, immunotoxicology, pharmacology, genetic toxicology, medical endocrinology with an emphasis on thyroid function, biostatistics, assessment of risks due to non-cancer and cancer health effects, and assessment of risks due to ecological effects will review the scientific data, methods, and analyses, along with the assumptions and uncertainties that are associated with the revised provisional RfD, cancer assessment, and ecological assessment for perchlorate. These scientists were selected by RTI from among the experts nominated by stakeholders for possible service as external peer reviewers. Following the peer review workshop, RTI will issue a

¹ The PSG is a consortium of defense contractors and manufacturers including: Aerojet, Alliant Techsystems, American Pacific/Western Electrochemical Company, Atlantic Research Corporation, Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp. Lockheed Martin, Thiokol Propulsion Group, and United Technologies Chemical Systems.

report summarizing the workshop. EPA will address the comments of the peer reviewers in finalizing the Toxicological Review document for perchlorate and adopting the revised perchlorate RfD. The RfD will be utilized in performing risk assessments of perchlorate contamination in the environment. Although such risk assessments will be one of the factors considered in making future decisions regarding perchlorate contamination, these decisions and other risk management issues will not be a part of the peer review process.

Dated: January 7, 1999.

Timothy Fields, Jr.,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Public Information Collections Approved by Office of Management and Budget

January 7, 1999.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the following public information collections pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. For further information contact Shoko B. Hair, Federal Communications Commission, (202) 418-1379.

Federal Communications Commission

OMB Control No.: 3060-0875.

Expiration Date: 06/30/99.

Title: Long-Term Portability Cost Classification Proceeding, CC Docket No. 95-116, MO&O, RM 8535 and Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket No. 95-116, 3rd R&O.

Form No.: N/A.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit;

Estimated Annual Burden: 67 respondents; 85.5 hours per response (avg.); 5729 total annual burden hours for all collections.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden: \$0.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Description: In the *Third Report and Order*, the Commission implements, for long-term number portability costs, the statutory requirement that all telecommunications carriers bear the

costs of number portability on a competitively neutral basis, as set forth in Section 251(e)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In the *Third Report and Order*, the Commission determined that all carriers would bear and recover their own carrier-specific costs directly related to providing number portability. For incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs) that wish to recover their carrier-specific costs directly related to providing long-term number portability, the *Third Report and Order* requires them to use a federally tariffed, monthly number-portability charge that will apply to end users for no longer than five years. In addition, the *Third Report and Order* delegated authority to the Common Carrier Bureau to determine appropriate methods for apportioning joint costs among portability and nonportability services, and to issue any orders to provide guidance for incumbent LECs before they file their tariffs and cost support. The Common Carrier Bureau's *Cost Classification Order* requires incumbent LECs to include many details in their cost support that are unique to the number portability proceeding. For instance, incumbent LECs must demonstrate that any incremental overhead costs claimed in their cost support are actually new costs incremental to and resulting from the provision of long-term number portability. The incumbent LECs' end-user charge will begin no earlier than February 1, 1999. To obtain an effective date for their end-user charges of February 1, 1999, incumbent LECs may file their tariffs and cost support information by January 15, 1999. Incumbent LECs that want to recover their carrier-specific costs directly related to providing long-term number portability from their end users will file federal end-user charge tariffs and cost support with the Commission. As part of the tariff proceeding, the Commission will collect detailed information on the incumbent LECs' cost support for the tariffs. The Commission will use this information to ensure that the end-user charge recovers the incumbent LECs' costs of implementing and providing number portability in a competitively neutral manner. Incumbent LECs will file the tariffs and cost support for their end-user charge electronically. The Commission has established a program of mandatory electronic filing of tariffs and associated documents by LECs. These carriers must file tariffs and associated documents electronically in accordance with the requirements established by the Bureau. Obligation to

respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Control No.: 3060-0877.

Expiration Date: 07/31/99.

Title: 1999 Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS).

Form No.: N/A.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit;

Estimated Annual Burden: 2900 respondents; 9 hours per response (avg.); 26,100 total annual burden hours for all collections.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden: \$0.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Description: In the past, the administration of the telecommunications numbering resource in the United States was performed by AT&T, and later by Bellcore. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 gave the Commission exclusive jurisdiction over those portions of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) which pertain to the United States. The Act also provided that the Commission could delegate this jurisdiction to states or other entities. The Commission has, in fact, delegated the administration of the NANP to a neutral administrator, Lockheed Martin IMS. Historically, the administrator collected data regarding the use of the telecommunications numbering resource through a form called the Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS). Lockheed Martin IMS is planning to send out the first COCUS since it assumed its duties as the NANP administrator. The North American Numbering Plan (NANP) is currently experiencing an unprecedented amount of growth of area codes. Adding area codes imposes costs not only on the telecommunications industry, but also on consumers. The proposed COCUS seeks information not only on the number of central office codes assigned to carriers, but also on the amount of individual numbers assigned to consumers from the central office codes. This information will assist the Commission in determining methods to help alleviate some of the costs associated with the addition of new area codes. **Authority:** 47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1). The increasing strain on the NANP, as evidenced through the rapid increase in the rate of introduction of new area codes, requires that the Commission take an active role in seeking solutions to slow the rate of number exhaust. The information collected will be used to better inform the Commission of the scope of the number exhaust problem, and which solutions may provide the greatest impact in different areas of the