

Stakeholder Meeting: North American Metals Council (NAMC) Request for IRIS Website Updates
Date: May 16th, 2019

Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions (All)
- Presentation of concerns (NAMC)
- Clarifying discussion (IRIS-NAMC)
- Closing/next steps (IRIS)

Summary of Meeting Activities:

- NAMC requested changes to the current IRIS website that would highlight to users the age of an IRIS assessment report available on a subject chemical (***)Illustrative example at the end).
- EPA clarified that 1) the age of an assessment is not entirely indicative of its applicability; for many chemicals the old assessments are the only available ones. 2) while new data may be available for a specific chemical, assessments are updated based on policy/statutory needs and priorities of EPA program offices. EPA also mentioned beginning a systematic review effort (evidence mapping) to help inform the need for, and resource requirements to, conduct new assessments or updates.
- NAMC clarified that they were not asking IRIS to update assessments, but for a solution to point to more recently available data/publications and more prominent presentation of dates of past assessments.
 - EPA may not reference newly available data directly on the IRIS website that it has not evaluated in assessments but offered to make assessment dates more visible/prominent to the user.
- NAMC inquired whether the process would be different for assessments which provide no values, such as copper.
 - EPA responded that the process would be the same.
- There was discussion surrounding the transparency, or lack thereof, in the use of older IRIS assessments.
 - NAMC suggested that there could be circumstances in which outside parties/regulators have assumed that the existing IRIS assessments represent the newest information, regardless of the age of the assessment.
 - EPA responded that when there is outreach, EPA often collaborates with other government agencies on the need to use or update an assessment.
 - EPA also explained IRIS prioritization was based on needs of EPA program offices, and additionally noted that chemicals may be nominated through TSCA as well.
 - NAMC pointed to the cost of a manufacture requested risk evaluations.
 - EPA indicated that if program offices requested a new or updated assessment, IRIS would use evidence mapping to determine the need for, and resources required to, conduct the assessment or update.
- EPA demonstrated how the [CompTox Chemicals Dashboard](#) can be used to quickly identify other available resources for hundreds of thousands of chemicals. There are references to this Dashboard on the IRIS website, but EPA will explore adding additional links.
- EPA also described additional efforts to modernize the IRIS database from the backend, which will provide more flexibility for website updates in the future.

- NAMC inquired about the availability of EPA dockets for materials on older assessments.
 - EPA may assist with including information in older dockets.

Action Items:

- EPA will make the date of assessments on chemical landing pages more visible.
- EPA will look into the possibility of additional links to the [CompTox Chemicals Dashboard](#) on the IRIS website.
- NAMC team will review the Chemistry Dashboard and may request a briefing or discussion with NCCT's Antony Williams.
- BCCM, the management company for NAMC, may send a published journal article on THF to be posted in the chemical docket.

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***Illustrative example provided by NAMC:

I think the easiest way to provide more details on our proposal is to give an example. Let's say a stakeholder is interested in molybdenum. That person goes to the IRIS assessment website and searches for molybdenum.

	Chemical Name	CASRN	Last Significant Revision*	IRIS Summary	Tox Review/ Support Document
377	Molybdenum	7439-98-7	Nov-01-1992	 (PDF 11 pp, 106 K)	Not Available

While we appreciate that there is information on the last significant revision for the assessment on this page, we believe that many stakeholders will not take notice and instead, will click immediately on the "molybdenum" link under chemicals name or on the IRIS summary document.

To ensure information on the timing of the assessment is clearly communicated, we propose that another notification be given to the stakeholder when he or she clicks on the IRIS summary or the "molybdenum" link. In our view, this notification would be a simply text box that pops up on the screen reminding the user of the age of the assessment. Potential wording would be as follows:

NOTE: You are accessing an IRIS assessment document that is more than ten years old.

It is possible that additional data on this chemical are now available which were not included as part of the IRIS assessment.

Users are encouraged to consider investigating whether more recent data are available and if so, whether they are relevant for their needs.

Click OK to continue

