

### *C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?*

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-00630 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

1. *By mail.* Submit your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier.* Deliver your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. The PIRIB is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

3. *Electronically.* You may submit your comments electronically by e-mail to: "opp-docket@epa.gov," or mail your computer disk to the address identified above. Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by docket control number OPP-00630. Electronic comments may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

### **II. Purpose of the Meeting**

This FIFRA SAP meeting includes two sessions. The first session concerns characterization and non-target organism data requirements for protein plant-pesticides. This session will entail a discussion of proposed Agency data requirements for protein plant-pesticides, including both characterization and non-target organisms. Characterization includes the identity of the pesticidal substance and the genetic material necessary for its production along with expression levels, tissue specificity, and plant biology. Non-target organism discussions will include the appropriate non-target organisms for testing, test substances, and conduct of such studies.

The second session will be a review of issues pertaining to cumulative risk assessment of pesticide substances that

have a common mechanism of toxicity. EPA is currently preparing guidance for assessing cumulative risk in support of the FQPA. At the September 21-24, 1999 meeting of the FIFRA SAP, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) presented the chapters of the guidance that describe the approaches it plans to use to cumulate hazard of pesticide substances that cause a common toxic effect by a common mechanism. The FIFRA SAP made recommendations for improving the guidance. OPP has revised the guidance accordingly and has completed the chapters that pertain to assessing exposure to two or more pesticides that share a common mechanism of toxicity. At the December, 1999, meeting of the FIFRA SAP, OPP will present the following: (1) a summary of the issues presented at the September meeting; (2) how EPA has addressed the recommendations made by the FIFRA SAP; (3) an overview of cumulative exposure assessment and risk characterization section; and (4) a case study that illustrates how OPP plans to use the guidance.

### **III. Availability of Review Materials**

A meeting agenda is currently available and copies of EPA background documents for the meeting will be available no later than November 9, 1999. The meeting agenda and EPA primary background documents will be available on the FIFRA SAP web site -- <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap/> or may be obtained by contacting the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; Office location: Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA; telephone number: (703) 305-5805.

### **IV. Written Comments and Oral Presentations at the Meeting**

Members of the public wishing to submit comments should contact the persons listed under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" to confirm that the meeting date and the agenda have not been modified or changed. Interested persons are permitted to file written statements before the meeting. To the extent that time permits, and upon advanced written request to the persons listed under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT", interested persons may be permitted by the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel to present oral statements at the meeting. The request should identify the name of the individual making the presentation, the organization (if any) the individual

will represent, and any requirements for audiovisual equipment (e.g., overhead projector, 35 mm projector, chalkboard, etc.). There is no limit on the length of written comments for consideration by the Panel, but oral statements before the Panel are limited to approximately 5 minutes. The Agency also urges the public to submit written comments in lieu of oral presentations. Persons wishing to make oral and/or written statements should notify the persons listed under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" and submit 40 copies of the summary information. The Agency encourages that written statements be submitted before the meeting to provide Panel Members the time necessary to consider and review the comments.

### **V. Panel Report**

Copies of the Panel's report of their recommendations will be available approximately 45 working days after the meeting, and will be posted on the FIFRA SAP web site or may be obtained by contacting the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch at the address or telephone number listed in Unit III. of this document.

### **List of Subjects**

Environmental protection.

Dated: November 8, 1999.

**Michael Firestone,**

*Acting Director, Office of Science Coordination and Policy.*

[FR Doc. 99-29771 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-6475-1]

### **Peer Review of Agency Draft Mercury Research Strategy**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces a workshop organized by Eastern Research Group, Inc., a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contractor, to obtain scientific peer review of an EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) draft Research Strategy entitled: Mercury Research Strategy.

**DATES:** The peer review workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, and begin at 8:30 a.m. and end no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 9,

1999. Members of the public may attend as observers. Due to limited space, seating at the meetings will be on a first-come first-serve basis.

**ADDRESSES:** The peer review workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. To attend the workshop as an observer, contact Eastern Research Group, Inc., Telephone: (781) 674-7374. Space is limited so please register early.

**AVAILABILITY OF REVIEW MATERIALS:** An electronic version of the draft Research Strategy is accessible on EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) home page via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/new.htm>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The EPA has contracted with Eastern Research Group, Inc., (ERG, Inc., 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, Massachusetts 02421). To attend the meeting as an observer, please preregister by calling ERG at 781-674-7374 or fax a registration request to 781-674-2906. Upon registration, you will be sent an agenda and a logistical fact sheet.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** ERG is convening the peer review panel to review a draft Mercury Research Strategy. The peer review panel is requested to comment on the extent to which the Research Strategy clearly identifies the appropriate strategic directions for a research program to answer key scientific questions for mercury risk assessment and risk management over the next five years, describes the rationale for, and the expected benefits of, EPA's Mercury Research Program and outlines the relative emphasis and timing of the research activities. ORD expects the Mercury Research Strategy to guide development of more detailed implementation plans and serve as a resource for Agency managers who must make decisions about research priorities and budgets.

After considering recommendations from extramural advisory groups, as well as senior scientists from across EPA's Program and Regional Offices, ORD has identified in the Research Strategy the strategic directions for its Mercury Research Program. While the Research Strategy delineates the research areas comprising the framework for the Mercury Research Program, the details of the research areas, including the scientific approach at the individual project level, and the anticipated products, performance measures, and schedules, will be included in subsequent research plans and are not a part of this Research Strategy. ERG is undertaking the

establishment of a peer review panel to review the Research Strategy.

Dated: November 8, 1999

**Harold Zenick,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, Office of Research and Development.*  
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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6474-9]

### Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee of the USEPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times noted below. All times noted are Eastern Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis.

**Important Notice:** Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

#### 1—CASAC Diesel Review Panel

The Diesel Review Panel of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on Wednesday, December 1, 1999 at the Hawthorne Suites, 300 Meredith Drive Durham, NC 27713, tel. (919) 361-1234. The meeting will begin at 8:30 am and end no later than 5:00 pm.

##### *Purpose of the Meeting*

The CASAC Diesel Review Panel will review the Agency's draft Health Assessment Document for Diesel Engine Emissions. This continues the CASAC review of this document that last took place on May 5-6, 1998. Please see the CASAC report of that meeting (EPA-SAB-CASAC-99-001, October 7, 1999, Review of the Diesel Health Assessment Document, available on the SAB Website [[www.epa.gov/sab](http://www.epa.gov/sab)] or from the SAB staff at (202) 564-4533). The principal purpose of this meeting is for the Committee to determine if the Agency has responded to previous concerns of the Committee and if the document is an adequate portrayal of the current state of knowledge on diesel emissions.

### Availability of Review Materials

The draft Health Assessment Document for Diesel Engine Emissions (EPA/600/8-90/057D, November 1999), will be available as follows: an electronic version of the draft assessment will be made available via the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>. A limited number of paper copies will be available from NCEA's Technical Information Staff (phone: 202-564-3261; fax: 202-565-0050).

The Agency will be accepting comments on the draft assessment as part of a limited public review and comment period. Comments must be in writing and must be postmarked by December 17, 1999. There will be no separate **Federal Register** notice announcing this public review and comment period. Comments should be mailed to: Diesel Comments, NCEA-W/TIS (8623D), USEPA, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Please submit one unbound original, to include an index of any attachments, and two copies. If sent via overnight delivery, please use the following address: 808 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. Note that the Agency is accepting comments that specifically relate to the technical aspects of the draft document. All technical comments will become part of the official record. For that reason, commenters should not provide any information that is not suitable for public inspection, such as personal medical information, home address, confidential business information, or any information protected by copyright. Comments that address policy or other issues or do not specifically provide technical comments on the draft will not be included in the record. Due to limited resources, acknowledgments will not be sent.

#### 2—CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel

The Particulate Matter Review Panel of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on Thursday, December 2, 1999 at the Hawthorne Suites, 300 Meredith Drive Durham, NC 27713, tel. (919) 361-1234. The meeting will begin at 8:30 am and end no later than 5:00 pm.

##### *Purpose of the Meeting*

(a) The CASAC PM Review Panel will review an external review draft of the EPA air quality criteria document for particulate matter (PM) now being revised by EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) for