

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Public Health Service****National Toxicology Program; Call for Public Comments on 11 Agents, Substances, Mixtures and Exposure Circumstances Proposed for Listing in or Delisting from the Report on Carcinogens, Ninth Edition****Background**

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) solicits final public comments on additional agents, substances, mixtures and exposure circumstances for listing in or delisting from the Report on Carcinogens, Ninth Edition. This Report is a Congressionally mandated listing of known human carcinogens and reasonably anticipated human carcinogens and the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) delegates its preparation to the National Toxicology Program. Section 301(b)(4) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, provides that the Secretary, (HHS), shall publish a report which contains a list of all substances (1) which either are known to be human carcinogens or may reasonably be anticipated to be human carcinogens; and (2) to which a significant number of persons residing in the United States (US) are exposed. The law also states that the reports should provide available information on the nature of exposures, the estimated

number of persons exposed and the extent to which the implementation of Federal regulations decrease the risk to public health from exposure to these chemicals.

In 1998, 11 substances or exposure circumstances were reviewed for listing in or removal from the Ninth Report. This review included two Federal and one non-government, scientific peer reviews and public comment and review. The three scientific review committee evaluated all available data relevant to the criteria for inclusion or removal of candidate substances or exposure circumstances in the Report. The criteria used in the review process and the detailed description of the review procedures, including the steps in the current formal review process, can be obtained by contacting: Dr. C.W. Jameson, National Toxicology Program, Report on Carcinogens, 79 Alexander Drive, Room 3217, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; phone: (919) 541-4096, fax: (919) 541-2242, email: jameson@niehs.nih.gov. This information is also available on the NTP Home Page web site at <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/>

Public Comment Requested

The NTP will be making a final recommendation in 1999 for the 11 substances or exposure circumstances reviewed in 1998, for either listing in, delisting from, or changing the current listing from reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen to the known to be

a human carcinogen category in the Ninth Report. These nominated substances or exposure circumstances are provided in the following table with their Chemical Abstracts Services (CAS) Registry numbers (where available) and the recommendations from the three scientific peer reviews of the nominations.

Background documents provided to the review committees and the interested public are available upon request. The NTP will review the recommendations of each of the review committees and consider the public comments received throughout the process in making decisions regarding the NTP recommendations to the Secretary, DHHS, for listing or removal of the nominated substances and exposure circumstances in the Ninth Edition of the Report on Carcinogens. The NTP solicits final public comment to supplement any previously submitted comments or to provide comments for the first time on any substance or exposure circumstances in the following table. Comments will be accepted for a period of 60 days from the date of the publication of this announcement in the Federal Register. Comments or questions should be directed to Dr. C.W. Jameson at the address listed above.

Attachment

Dated: December 4, 1998.

Kenneth Olden,

Director, National Toxicology Program.

SUMMARY OF RG1,¹ RG2² AND NTP BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE³ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AGENTS, SUBSTANCES, MIXTURES OR EXPOSURE CIRCUMSTANCES REVIEWED IN 1998 FOR LISTING IN OR DELISTING FROM THE REPORT ON CARCINOGENS,⁴ 9TH EDITION

Nomination/CAS No.	Primary uses or exposures	RG1 action	RG2 action	NTP board subcommittee action
Alcoholic Beverages	Consumption of alcoholic beverages.	RG1 recommended (6 yes votes to 1 no vote) listing as known to be a human carcinogen.	RG2 unanimously recommended (7 yes votes to 0 no votes) listing as known to be a human carcinogen.	The Subcommittee recommended (9 yes votes to 3 no votes with 1 abstention) listing as known to be a human carcinogen.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture and Repair.	Workers in the boot and shoe manufacture and repair industry.	RG1 recommended (5 yes votes to 1 no vote) that Boot and Shoe Manufacture and Repair in the United States be included in the RoC as having been reviewed but not formally listed, due to inadequate data.	RG2 recommended (6 yes votes to 1 no vote) that Boot and Shoe Manufacture and Repair in the United States be included in the RoC as having been reviewed but not formally listed, due to inadequate data.	The Subcommittee unanimously recommended (10 yes votes to 0 no votes) to defer action on this nomination because of the lack of exposure assessment information.
Diesel Exhaust Particulates	Diesel engine exhaust	RG1 defeated a motion to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen (4 yes votes to 5 no votes). RG1 recommended (5 yes votes to 4 no votes) to list as known to be a human carcinogen.	RG2 recommended (6 yes votes to 1 no vote) to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.	The Subcommittee recommended (9 yes votes to 0 no votes with 3 abstentions) to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.

SUMMARY OF RG1,¹ RG2² AND NTP BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE³ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AGENTS, SUBSTANCES, MIXTURES OR EXPOSURE CIRCUMSTANCES REVIEWED IN 1998 FOR LISTING IN OR DELISTING FROM THE REPORT ON CARCINOGENS,⁴ 9TH EDITION—Continued

Nomination/CAS No.	Primary uses or exposures	RG1 action	RG2 action	NTP board subcommittee action
Environmental Tobacco Smoke.	"Passive" inhalation of tobacco smoke from environmental sources.	RG1 recommended (7 yes votes to 0 no vote with 1 abstention) to list as known to be a human carcinogen.	RG2 recommended (5 yes votes to 2 no votes) to list as known to be a human carcinogen.	The Subcommittee unanimously recommended (13 yes votes to 0 no votes) listing as known to be a human carcinogen.
Ethyl Acrylate/140-88-5	Monomer used to produce polymers and copolymers for use in latex paints, textiles, etc.	RG1 recommended (7 yes votes to 2 no votes) to delist from RoC.	RG2 recommended (6 yes votes to 1 no vote) to delist from RoC.	The Subcommittee recommended (8 yes votes to 2 no votes with 2 abstentions) to delist from the RoC.
Ethylene Oxide/75-21-8	Industrial chemical used as an intermediate in the manufacture of other chemicals; e.g., ethylene glycol and is widely used in the health care industry as a sterilant.	RG1 recommended (6 yes votes to 1 no vote) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.	RG2 unanimously recommended (7 yes votes to 0 no votes) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.	The Subcommittee recommended (6 yes votes to 5 no votes with 1 abstention) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.
Isoprene/78-79-5	The monomeric unit of natural rubber and naturally occurring terpenes and steroids and widely used in the production of isoprene-butadiene copolymers.	RG1 unanimously recommended (6 yes votes to 0 no votes) to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.	RG2 recommended (6 yes votes to 0 no votes with 1 abstention) to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.	The Subcommittee unanimously recommended (13 yes votes to 0 no votes) to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.
Methyl-t-Butyl Ether/1634-04-4.	Used as an additive in unleaded gasoline in amounts up to 11%.	RG1 recommended (4 yes votes to 3 no votes) to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.	RG2 voted against motion to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen (3 yes votes to 4 no votes).	The Subcommittee voted against motion to list as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen (5 yes votes to 6 no votes with 1 abstention).
Nickel Compounds	Many industrial and commercial applications.	RG1 unanimously recommended (7 yes votes to 0 no votes) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.	RG2 recommended (4 yes votes to 3 no votes with 1 abstention) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.	The Subcommittee unanimously recommended (12 yes votes to 0 no votes) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.
Silica, Crystalline (Respirable Size)/7631-86-9.	Exposure from mining and quarrying of coal and other minerals, stone cutting, production of glass and ceramics and in occupations such as sandblasting, polishing and grinding.	RG1 unanimously recommended (9 yes votes to 0 no votes) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.	RG2 recommended (5 yes votes to 2 no votes) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.	The Subcommittee recommended (11 yes votes to 1 no vote) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.
2,3,7,8-TETRACHLORODIBENZ O-P-DIOXIN (TCDD)/1746-01-6.	Not used commercially, found as a contaminant in the production of some pesticides and other commercial products.	RG1 unanimously recommended (10 yes votes to 0 no votes) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.	RG2 unanimously recommended (8 yes votes to 0 no votes) to upgrade to a known human carcinogen.	The Subcommittee voted against motion to upgrade current listing to known human carcinogen. (5 yes votes to 7 no votes with 1 abstention).

¹ The NIEHS Review Committee for the Report on Carcinogens (RG1).

² The NTP Executive Committee* Interagency Working Group for the Report on Carcinogens (RG2).

*Agencies represented on the NTP Executive Committee include: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Library of Medicine (NLM), and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences/NTP (NIEHS/NTP).

³ The NTP Board of Scientific Counselor Report on Carcinogens Subcommittee (the External Peer Review Group).

⁴ RoC—Report on Carcinogens.

[FR Doc. 98-33090 Filed 12-11-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4351-N-11]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments are due February 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert A. Knight, Social Science Analyst, 451 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202)-708-1060, Ext. 5893. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Knight.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of

appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Survey of Market Absorption of New Apartment Buildings.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The Survey of Market Absorption provides the data necessary to measure the rate at which new rental apartments and new condominium apartments are absorbed, that is, taken off the market, usually by being rented or sold, over the course of the first twelve months following completion of a building. The data are collected at quarterly intervals until the twelve months expire or until the units in a building are completely absorbed. The survey also provides estimates of certain characteristics, i.e., asking rent/price, number of bedrooms, of apartments being absorbed, which provides a basis for analyzing the degree to which new apartment construction is meeting the present and future needs of the public.

Members of affected public: Business firms (builders and rental agents).

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:

Number of respondents: 12,000 (maximum).

Frequency of response: four times (maximum).

Time per respondent: .3 hours.

Total hours: 3,600.

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Title 12, United States Code, Section 1701Z, as amended.

Dated: December 2, 1998.

Lawrence L. Thompson,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 98-33107 Filed 12-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Zanker Material Processing Facility, Santa Clara County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Zanker Road Resource Management, Ltd. has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Service proposes to issue a 3-year permit to Zanker Road Resource Management, Ltd. that would authorize take of the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) incidental to otherwise lawful activities. Such take would occur during reconstruction of an existing unengineered levee system surrounding a landfill site in Santa Clara County, California. Reconstruction of the levees will result in the temporary loss of approximately 0.83 acres of grassland habitat used by the salt marsh harvest mouse.

We request comments from the public on the permit application, which is available for review. The application includes a Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). The Plan describes the proposed project and the measures that Zanker Road Resource Management, Ltd. would undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to the salt marsh harvest mouse.

We also request comments on our preliminary determination that the Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" Habitat Conservation Plan, eligible for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act. The basis for this determination is discussed in an Environmental Action Statement, which is also available for public review.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Mr. Wayne White, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821-6340. Comments may be sent by facsimile to 916-979-2744.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Lori Rinek or Mr. William Lehman, Fish and Wildlife Biologists, at the above address or call (916) 979-2129.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Please contact the above office if you would like copies of the application, Plan, and Environmental Action Statement. Documents also will be available for review by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act and Federal regulation prohibit the "take" of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened,