

dissemination of information among different technical disciplines.

Dated: April 5, 2000.

Ruth Kirschstein,

Acting Director, National Institutes of Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH; National Toxicology Program; Peer Review Meeting on Low-Dose Issues for Endocrine Disruptors; Scope of Information Considered for Review Broadened, Deadline for Receipt of Information Extended, and Date for Meeting Delayed

Summary

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) is organizing a Peer Review to evaluate whether chemicals can cause hormone-related effects at doses lower than those typically used in the standard toxicological dose-setting paradigm. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program will use the results from this peer review to assist in determining how to identify and characterize potential low-dose effects that may arise during endocrine disruptor screening, testing, and hazard assessment.

On January 6, 2000 the NTP published a **Federal Register** notice [Volume 65, Number 4, pages 784-787] outlining plans for the Peer Review meeting and soliciting public input into the process. This notice broadens the request for research studies and data to be considered and extends previously announced deadlines for receipt for research information for use in this peer review.

Broader Request for Research Studies to be Considered for the Peer Review

On January 6, 2000, the NTP published a **Federal Register** notice [Volume 65, Number 4, pages 784-787] providing details about a Peer Review meeting to evaluate scientific data on the potential low-dose effects associated with exposure to endocrine disruptors. In that notice, the NTP solicited comments on the planned scope and process of the proposed peer review, nominations of studies for inclusion in this review, as well as nominations of individuals for the Peer Review panel. The notice also detailed the criteria for selection of studies for review.

The NTP Selection/Organizing Committee will review the nominated studies and designate them as either critical to resolution of the low-dose issue or background information. The January 6th notice stipulated that studies nominated for consideration in this peer review should have been published or accepted for publication by April 1, 2000. The NTP is now broadening the scope of studies to be considered for this peer review to include relevant data from unpublished studies. Submission of unpublished studies should include an abstract of the study describing the hypothesis being tested, experimental design [model system (cell line, species, strain, number per group, etc.), dosing regimen, duration of treatment and follow-up], endpoints evaluated, and results (if available).

If an unpublished study is nominated for consideration, the NTP will contact the principal investigator for an update of the study's status and to obtain additional information about the study. If selected by the NTP Selection/Organizing Committee, the studies will be distributed to the Peer Review panel for its review and evaluation. The NTP may need access to raw data for subsequent independent analysis by the Panel. As with published studies and studies accepted for publication but not yet published, all information given to the Peer Review Panel will simultaneously be made available to the public. Therefore, studies, which are unpublished by the date of their distribution to the Panel, will require approval from the author (and publisher if accepted for publication) in order to be included in the Peer Review. A list of the studies included in the Peer Review will be posted on the NTP web page (<http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov>) and available from NTP Liaison and Scientific Review Office (NIEHS/NTP, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; t: 919-541-0530; f: 919-541-0295). **Federal Register** announcement. Planning for the Peer Review Meeting is ongoing and the date and location will be announced in the **Federal Register** in the near future.

Solicitation of Public Comment

Comments about the scope and process for the Peer Review are welcome. The deadline for submission of comments, identified by docket control number OPPTS-42208A, is extended from February 22, 2000 to May 22, 2000.

Guidelines for Submission of Public Comment

The EPA will manage the record-keeping aspects of the Peer Review as part of the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program. General information about the U.S. EPA Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program is available from the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/oscpendo/index.htm> or by contacting Mr. James Kariya (contact information provided below).

The EPA has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPPTS-42208A. The official record consists of the document specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received during an applicable comment period, and other information related to this action. This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as confidential business information (CBI). The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during an applicable comment period, is available for inspection in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center, North East Mall Room B-607, Waterside Mall, 401 M. Street, SW, Washington, DC. The Center is open from noon to 4 PM., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number of the Center is (202) 260-7099.

Comments can be submitted through the mail, in person, or electronically. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that the docket control number OPPTS-42208A is identified in the subject line on the first page of the comments.

1. *By mail:* Submit comments to: Document Control Office (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier:* Deliver comments to: OPPT Document Control Office (DCO) in East Tower Rm. G-099, Waterside Mall, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC. The DCO is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the DCO is (202) 260-7093.

3. *Electronically:* Submit comments electronically by e-mail to: "oppt.ncic@epa.gov," or mail the computer disk to the Document Control Office (address identified above). The form must be identified by docket

control number OPTTS-42208A. Electronic comments may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

Do not submit any information that you consider is CBI. If you believe that relevant information will be overlooked because of this restriction, please consult James P. Kariya, Office of Science Coordination and Policy (7203), Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460; t: 202-260-2916; email: kariya.jim@epa.gov.

Dated: April 6, 2000.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Toxicology Program.

[FR Doc. 00-9443 Filed 4-14-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service has published a Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Environmental Assessment, and a Finding of No Significant Impact for Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in Collier County, Florida. The plan describes how the Fish and Wildlife Service intends to manage the refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the above documents may be obtained by writing to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Attention: Jennifer Harris, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 420, Atlanta, Georgia 30345; or to Jim Krakowski, Refuge Manager, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, 3860 Tollgate Boulevard, Suite 300, Naples, Florida 34114.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By implementing this comprehensive conservation plan, the refuge seeks to (1) provide a clear statement of the desired future conditions when refuge purposes and goals are accomplished; (2) provide refuge neighbors and visitors with a clear understanding of the reasons for management actions on and around the refuge; (3) ensure that management of other refuge reflects policies and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System; (4) ensure that refuge management is consistent with federal, state, and county plans; (5) provide long-term continuity in refuge management; and (6) provide a basis for operation, maintenance, and capital improvement budget requests.

Dated: April 7, 2000.

Judy L. Jones,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00-9457 Filed 4-14-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for a scientific research permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10 (a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Permit No. TE-023904

Applicant: USDI Bureau of Land Management, North Palm Springs, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys throughout its range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-023895

Applicant: Paul W. Collins, Santa Ynez, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and handle) the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys in Santa Barbara County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-023892

Applicant: Lawrence Edward Hunt, Santa Barbara, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and handle) the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys in Santa Barbara County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-023886

Applicant: San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, handle, and collect tissue samples) the arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo californicus*) in conjunction with surveys, population monitoring, ecological research, and population

augmentation throughout the species range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-018909

Applicant: Kelly Michelle Rios, Brea, California

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (survey by pursuit) the El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys throughout its range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-817397

Applicant: John R. Storrer, Santa Barbara, California

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (capture and handle) the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys in Santa Barbara County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-009015

Applicant: Jason Lee Berkley, Whittier, California

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (capture and handle) the arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys throughout its range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-815144

Applicant: Rosemary Ann Thompson, Santa Barbara, California

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (capture and handle) the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys in Santa Barbara County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-826513

Applicant: Galen Rathbun, Bakersfield, California

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (radio-tag) the blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*) in Kern County, California in conjunction with ecological research for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-768251

Applicant: Biosearch Wildlife Surveys, Santa Cruz, California

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (capture, mark) the Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*) in conjunction with population studies throughout the species range in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.