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**From:** Bahadori, Tina
**Sent:** Wed 9/6/2017 7:06:17 PM
**Subject:** NCEA Weekly Report for September 5th, 2017

**National Center for Environmental Assessment**
**Weekly Report for September 5th, 2017**

Notables listed below and 30-day Outlook attached.

## HOT ITEMS

**Hurricane Harvey support to Region 6.** The Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center (STSC) received a request for support from Region 6 associated with Hurricane Harvey. The request, from the Environmental Unit, is for identification of toxicity values for 15 chemicals released into the environment as a result of the Hurricane/flooding. The STSC is currently working on obtaining and arraying all useful information to share with R6 on the 15 chemicals identified.

## PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

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**Supporting ATSDR.** NCEA's Jason Sacks was asked by the Associate Director of Science, Division of Community Health Investigations (DCHI), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to provide a scientific and technical review of a guidance document, "Particulate Matter (PM) Evaluation Guidance for DCHI Health Assessment Products," that is being developed for ATSDR health assessors on how to consider the evaluation of PM exposures in health assessment products. Input is to be provided by September 8th, 2017.

**2017 Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society (EMGS) Annual Meeting**. On September 9 -13th NCEA scientists will be attending and participating in the EMGS annual meeting. This conference brings together scientists studying exposures, mechanisms, and

regulatory sciences to stimulating cross-disciplinary research and discovery into how environmental agents impact genomic, proteomic and metabolic signatures, and how we can use this knowledge base to develop informed biomarkers and improved regulatory policies that address human health concerns related to environmental exposures. Michelle Angrish was selected to give a "flash talk" during this conference on her abstract, entitled "Epigenetic Applications in Adverse Outcome Pathways and Chemical Risk Evaluation."

**Seminars at Yale-National University of Singapore.** On September 11 -14, NCEA's Tara Greaver will give several seminars and meet with faculty and students regarding nitrogen effects on ecosystems and science assessment at Yale-National University of Singapore. The three presentations are: "Ecological Effects of Nitrogen Oxides, Sulfur Oxides and Particulate Matter in the U.S."; "Is nitrogen deposition a friend or foe to ecosystems?: Examples from U.S. policy, interactions with climate change and ecosystem services;" and, "Causality vs. Dose-response in ecological assessment of criteria pollutants."

**Support for the Regional Monitoring Network.** On September 13th, NCEA's David Gibbs (ORISE) will give a presentation at the EPA R User Workshop in Washington, D.C. on the development of an R Shiny web app for continuous stream data QC. This app, once it is made available online, will make it easier for Regional Monitoring Network partner organizations to QC the data they collect because they will use a simple web interface rather than interact directly with R.

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**WITHIN EPA**

**Toxic Release Inventory Chemical List.** NCEA scientists are reviewing a proposed rule to add twenty-five chemicals to the Toxic Release Inventory chemical list, based on petitions from the Toxics Use Reduction Institute. Comments were requested to be submitted by September 12, 2017.

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**OTHER ITEMS of INTEREST**

**IRIS, HBCD, and TSCA.** On August 28th, The IRIS hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) team met with staff from OPPT's Risk Assessment Division to discuss progress on the HBCD assessment and opportunities for collaboration.

**IRIS meeting with Region 7.** On August 31st, The assessment managers for hexavalent chromium Assessment Managers (Catherine Gibbons and Alan Sasso) met with Region 7 regarding hexavalent chromium issues from a regional perspective.

**Framework in the Draft IRIS Handbook**. On September 5th, members of the IRIS program met with the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics and the Risk Assessment Division human health staff to walk through the data evaluation framework in the draft IRIS handbook, including a high-level overview of IRIS animal tox, epi, and mechanistic considerations and some examples of applying these evaluation considerations in an assessment.

**Reappointment of the RAF EOC Chair**. Glenn Suter was reappointed as Chair of the Agency's Risk Assessment Forum Ecological Oversight Committee (EOC). Mace Baron is serving as the Chair for the Technical Panel. They have recruited and approved the members of the technical panel. The panel will be developing the EOC five-year plan and are making progress on the Ecological Risk Assessment Colloquium. The Colloquium brings together all ecological risk assessors to discuss their needs and suggest projects in support of the five-year plan.

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## PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCT UPDATES

**"Particle Pollution and Your Patients' Health".** NCEA's Jason Sacks and James Brown participated in a collaboration between ORD and OAR to develop an evidence-based training course for healthcare professionals "Particle Pollution and Your Patients' Health" summarizing the scientific data linking exposures to PM with a wide range of health effects including cardiovascular and respiratory effects and premature death. This course includes educational tools that healthcare providers can share with their patients, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung disease, to help them understand how particulate matter (PM) can affect their health; to learn how to use the Air Quality Index; and ways to reduce their exposures to PM.

**Encyclopedia of Ecology, 2nd ed.** Sue Norton and Glenn Suter are authors of the entry "Ecological Risk Assessment" in the online reference work *Encyclopedia of Ecology, 2nd ed.,* which is a comprehensive collection of up-to-date articles on all the major topics in ecology. Entries in the work are authored by international experts

(http://mrw.elsevier.com/ECL2/index.html).

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