Message

From: Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/5/2017 3:56:35 PM
To: Askinazi, Valerie [Askinazi.Valerie@epa.gov]; Barkas, Jessica [barkas.jessica@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]; Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]; Blunck, Christopher [Blunck.Chris@epa.gov]; Brown, Sam [Brown.Sam@epa.gov]; Buster, Pamela [Buster.Pamela@epa.gov]; Canavan, Sheila [Canavan.Sheila@epa.gov]; Caraballo, Mario [Caraballo.Mario@epa.gov]; Carroll, Megan [Carroll.Megan@epa.gov]; Cherepy, Andrea [Cherepy.Andrea@epa.gov]; Christian, Myrta [Christian.Myrta@epa.gov]; Corado, Ana [Corado.Ana@epa.gov]; Davies, Clive [Davies.Clive@epa.gov]; DeDora, Caroline [DeDora.Caroline@epa.gov]; Devito, Steve [Devito.Steve@epa.gov]; Dix, David [Dix.David@epa.gov]; Doa, Maria [Doa.Maria@epa.gov]; Drewes, Scott [Drewes.Scott@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Ebzery, Joan [Ebzery.Joan@epa.gov]; Edelstein, Rebecca [Edelstein.Rebecca@epa.gov]; Edmonds, Marc [Edmonds.Marc@epa.gov]; Eglsaer, Kristie [Eglsaer.Kristie@epa.gov]; Farquharson, Chenise [Farquharson.Chenise@epa.gov]; Fehrenbacher, Cathy [Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov]; Feustel, Ingrid [feustel.ingrid@epa.gov]; Frank, Donald [Frank.Donald@epa.gov]; Gibson, Hugh [Gibson.Hugh@epa.gov]; Gimlin, Peter [Gimlin.Peter@epa.gov]; Gorder, Chris [Gorder.Chris@epa.gov]; Gordon, Brittney [Gordon.Brittney@epa.gov]; Grant, Brian [Grant.Brian@epa.gov]; Gray, Shawna [Gray.Shawna@epa.gov]; Groeneveld, Thomas [Groeneveld.Thomas@epa.gov]; Guthrie, Christina [Guthrie.Christina@epa.gov]; Henry, Tala [Henry.Tala@epa.gov]; Kapust, Edna [Kapust.Edna@epa.gov]; Kemme, Sara [kemme.sara@epa.gov]; Koch, Erin [Koch.Erin@epa.gov]; Krasnic, Toni [krasnic.toni@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Leczynski, Barbara [leczynski.barbara@epa.gov]; Lee, Mari [Lee.Mari@epa.gov]; Leopard, Matthew [Leopard.Matthew@epa.gov]; Liva, Aakruti [Liva.Aakruti@epa.gov]; Lobar, Bryan [Lobar.Bryan@epa.gov]; Mclean, Kevin [Mclean.Kevin@epa.gov]; Menasche, Claudia [Menasche.Claudia@epa.gov]; Moose, Lindsay [Moose.Lindsay@epa.gov]; Morris, Jeff [Morris.Jeff@epa.gov]; Moss, Kenneth [Moss.Kenneth@epa.gov]; Mottley, Tanya [Mottley.Tanya@epa.gov]; Moyer, Adam [moyer.adam@epa.gov]; Myers, Irina [Myers.Irina@epa.gov]; Myrick, Pamela [Myrick.Pamela@epa.gov]; Nazef, Laura [Nazef.Laura@epa.gov]; Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]; Owen, Elise [Owen.Elise@epa.gov]; Parsons, Doug [Parsons.Douglas@epa.gov]; Passe, Loraine [Passe.Loraine@epa.gov]; Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Pratt, Johnk [Pratt.Johnk@epa.gov]; Price, Michelle [Price.Michelle@epa.gov]; Reese, Recie [Reese.Recie@epa.gov]; Reisman, Larry [Reisman.Larry@epa.gov]; Rice, Cody [Rice.Cody@epa.gov]; Richardson, Vickie [Richardson.Vickie@epa.gov]; Ross, Philip [Ross.Philip@epa.gov]; Sadowsky, Don [Sadowsky.Don@epa.gov]; Santacroce, Jeffrey [Santacroce.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Saxton, Dion [Saxton.Dion@epa.gov]; Scarano, Louis [Scarano.Louis@epa.gov]; Scheifele, Hans [Scheifele.Hans@epa.gov]; Schmit, Ryan [schmit.ryan@epa.gov]; Schweer, Greg [Schweer.Greg@epa.gov]; Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette [Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov]; Seltzer, Mark [Seltzer.Mark@epa.gov]; Shafer, Jonathan [shafer.jonathan@epa.gov]; Sheehan, Eileen [Sheehan.Eileen@epa.gov]; Sherlock, Scott [Sherlock.Scott@epa.gov]; Simons, Andrew [Simons.Andrew@epa.gov]; Sirmons, Chandler [Sirmons.Chandler@epa.gov]; Slotnick, Sue [Slotnick.Sue@epa.gov]; Smith, David G. [Smith.DavidG@epa.gov]; Stedeford, Todd [Stedeford.Todd@epa.gov]; Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Symmes, Brian [Symmes.Brian@epa.gov]; Thompson, Tony [Thompson.Tony@epa.gov]; Tierney, Meghan [Tierney.Meghan@epa.gov]; Tillman, Thomas [Tillman.Thomas@epa.gov]; Tomassoni, Guy [Tomassoni.Guy@epa.gov]; Tran, Chi [Tran.Chi@epa.gov]; Vendinello, Lynn [Vendinello.Lynn@epa.gov]; Wallace, Ryan [Wallace.Ryan@epa.gov]; Wheeler, Cindy [Wheeler.Cindy@epa.gov]; Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Williams, Aresia [Williams.Aresia@epa.gov]; Williams, Bridget [Williams.Bridget@epa.gov]; Williamson, Tracy [Williamson.Tracy@epa.gov]; Wills, Jennifer [Wills.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Wise, Louise [Wise.Louise@epa.gov]; Wolf, Joel [Wolf.Joel@epa.gov]; Wright, Tracy [Wright.Tracy@epa.gov]; Yowell, John [yowell.john@epa.gov]
Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

INSIDEEPA.COM ARTICLES

Staff Urge Changes To Risk Assessment Division In OPPT Reorganization

Staff in EPA's toxics office, which senior officials are reorganizing to better implement the reformed Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), are urging managers to also reorganize the Risk Assessment Division (RAD) as part of the effort, saying any failure to tap the RAD for overhaul would hobble TSCA implementation.

OPPT Hedges On TSCA Rules For Legacy Uses Of Persistent Chemicals

EPA officials are undecided on whether to assess exposures to, and manage risks of, legacy uses and disposal of persistent and biaccumulative chemicals under the reformed Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), opening the door to a limitation that is already a feature of litigation over the Trump administration's rules governing TSCA assessments and chemical prioritization processes.

Industry Asks EPA To Consider Benefits, Endogenous Issue In IRIS Analysis

Industry is urging EPA to consider additional issues in its upcoming analysis of the human health risks of exposure to nitrate and nitrite, including conducting a risk-benefit analysis of nitrate's dietary benefits, setting a policy on endogenous chemicals before completing the assessment, and reviewing the existing assessment of perchlorate.

Industry Argues TSCA Program Obviates Need For Ethylbezene IRIS Analysis

An industry group is arguing that EPA's influential but controversial Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program should halt its plans to reassess ethlybenzene because the chemical is in line to be assessed by the new risk evaluation program required by the updated Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), and should be assessed by that program instead.

EPA Plans To Revise TSCA's Definition Of 'Small Manufacturers'

EPA is planning to launch a formal rulemaking to revise its current size standards for which companies quality as "small manufacturers and processors" under the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), an important definition that determines whether companies are subject to reporting regulations under the toxics law.

EPA Allies Warn Of Toxics, Enforcement Cuts To Fight FY18 Spending Plan

Environmentalists and other EPA allies are trying to fight major proposed fiscal year 2018 funding cuts for the agency by warning of the adverse health and environmental impacts that the cuts would have in scrapping a key toxic risk assessment program and significantly cutting enforcement, among other scaled-back programs.

9th Circuit Rejects EPA's Request To Transfer TSCA Rule Challenges

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit has rejected EPA's request to transfer to the 4th Circuit litigation challenging EPA's rule for how it will evaluate existing chemicals under the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), a win for environmentalists who want to keep the case in the 9th Circuit.

NYU Research Ties PFOA Phase-Out With Drop In Low Birth Weights

New York University (NYU) researchers are reporting findings that show a correlation between the voluntary phase-out that the chemical industry negotiated with EPA in 2006 for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), the chemical used to make non-stick substances, and a drop in the number of babies with low birth weights.

NACEPT Plans To Release Second Report On EPA 'Citizen Science' In 2018

EPA's National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) plans to release a second report on the agency's handling of "citizen science" in the spring, providing follow-up guidance to agency Administrator Scott Pruitt as the agency's Inspector General (IG) office also probes EPA's handling of the novel data.

CHPAC Members Unaffected By Pruitt's New Advisory Committee Policy

The membership of EPA's children's health advisory committee appears unlikely to be affected, at least for now, by Administrator Scott Pruitt's controversial new policy barring EPA grant recipients from serving on such panels.

EPA Launches New Initiative To Assist States, Localities With PFAS

EPA is launching a new, cross-agency workgroup to address the persistent class of chemicals known as per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in an effort to help a growing number of states, localities and tribes that are struggling to deal with the chemicals in their jurisdictions.

Barrasso Backs Rule Fix To End Democrats' Holds On Trump's EPA Picks

Senate environment committee chairman John Barrasso (R-WY) is publicly supporting GOP efforts to limit debate on executive branch nominees in an effort to end continuing Democratic delays on a suite of Trump administration nominees for EPA and other top environmental policy slots.

GREENWIRE ARTICLES

Greens file suit seeking Pruitt speeches

Amanda Reilly, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, December 4, 2017

U.S. EPA is facing yet another public records lawsuit, this time over Administrator Scott Pruitt's speeches to industry groups.

The Environmental Integrity Project today filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia alleging the agency failed to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request for speeches Pruitt has given to third parties.

The green group is seeking nearly five-dozen speeches Pruitt gave to industry or right-leaning organizations between late February and early November.

The list of organizations includes the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Association of Manufacturers and American Petroleum Institute.

"This stonewalling follows a pattern with Administrator Pruitt, who seems to have an obsession with secrecy," Mary Greene, EIP's deputy director, said in a statement. "Pruitt meets and speaks frequently with industry groups — but not public health or environmental advocates — and then makes decisions that benefit only industry, while ignoring the broader American public he's supposed to serve."

As he's sought to roll back myriad regulations, Pruitt's schedule has been filled with meetings with industry groups and energy companies, according to a private calendar obtained under FOIA. EPA spokespeople have defended the meetings by saying Pruitt is meeting with parties that were ignored during the Obama administration (*Greenwire*, Sept. 25).

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

Green Alliance urges UK government to stick to REACH

4 December 2017 / REACH, United Kingdom

During Brexit talks, the UK should negotiate full access to REACH and maintain waste regulations, definitions and principles, a report by UK thinktank Green Alliance says.

The report was produced for the Circular Economy Task Force, a UK business group which includes home improvement company Kingfisher and pharmacy chain Boots.

Attempting to create a UK equivalent to REACH would be "enormously expensive and time consuming", the report says, and adds that some believe "it will be impossible" as a single country cannot replicate its scope and expertise.

Leaving REACH while copying its rules could make the UK vulnerable to legal challenges from businesses wanting to use potentially dangerous chemicals, it says. Maintaining REACH and accepting the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in this area "is necessary to keep the same levels of protection from chemicals in the UK," the report says.

The report outlines two critical challenges it says the UK's Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will have to manage effectively over the next two years to achieve a good post-Brexit outcome for resources policy.

The first is managing divergence from existing EU waste and resource governance. Differing environmental standards create 'non-tariff barriers' that harm trading arrangements, it says. Retaining or recreating EU institutions to ensure adherence to chemicals, waste, recycling and products legislation will guarantee "sufficient equivalence" so the UK can continue trading freely with the EU.

The second challenge is creating new policy. "Failing to update and improve legislation once it is transposed risks opening an unpopular and environmentally harmful domestic policy gap after March 2019," the report says. The UK should therefore focus its efforts on enhancing resource efficiency and productivity "to suit the UK's particular circumstances", the report says.

In October, the Greener UK Unit at Green Alliance launched a Brexit risk tracker, which concluded the British chemical industry is at a "high level" of risk from the country's departure from the EU.

Related Articles

- Brexit tracker finds UK chemical industry at 'high risk'

Further Information:

- Green Alliance study

Ghana's EPA sets up hazardous chemicals and pesticides committees

4 December 2017 / Africa & Middle East, Biocides, Substances of concern

Ghana's EPA has set up two committees, one to oversee pesticides and another to look at hazardous chemicals, according to a story on the news website Modern Ghana.

The committees – the Pesticides Technical Committee and the Hazardous Chemicals Committee – have a four year mandate and were set up in accordance with the country's EPA act of 1994, Act 490.

Further Information:

- Modern Ghana report

Brazil releases comments from chemicals regulation consultation

Hundreds of contributions received

5 December 2017 / Brazil

Brazil has released documents revealing details from its consultation on the country's planned industrial chemicals regulation.

The two reports – published in advance of November meetings of the National Chemical Safety Commission (Conasq) – list hundreds of comments on the proposed legislation.

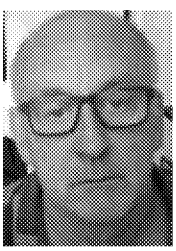
The Commission began reviewing the responses to its 2016 consultation on the policy draft, back in the summer. These came from almost 240 sources.

At a meeting in July, it divided the comments into four categories: matters of law; matters of regulation (secondary level law); out of scope; and other issues.

The documents Conasq has now released contain:

- all 680 comments it received on matters of law; and
- tens of comments that fall into the other three categories.

A spokesperson for the Commission said that its responses to matters of law will only be published, when it has concluded discussions of the entire document.



Nick Hazlewood

News editor

Related Articles

- Brazil moves forward on industrial chemicals regulation

Further Information:

- Matters of law (in Portuguese)

- Other comments (in Portuguese)

Serbian NGO campaigns on BPA in thermal paper

5 December 2017 / Bisphenols, Food contact, Serbia

Serbian NGO ALHem has launched a campaign to research and highlight the presence of bisphenol A (BPA) in thermal paper in the country, used in both public and private sectors.

ALHem is a member of NGO Health and Environment Alliance's (HEAL) network.

Initial results of tests on 33 samples found that all contained BPA. These included cash receipts, plastic boxes and paper packages for food, a HEAL press release says. Furthermore, 87.5% of tested thermal paper in the private sector and 88.9% in the public sector contained traces of the chemical.

ALHem is calling on public institutions and private actors to replace these products with safer alternatives in order to safeguard the health of citizens and workforce – especially of cashiers.

In December 2016, the European Commission published a Regulation that stated that BPA shall not be placed on the market in thermal paper in a concentration equal to or greater than 0.02% by weight, after 2 January 2020.

Related Articles

- Commission adopts BPA restriction in thermal paper

Further Information:

- HEAL press release
- European Commission Regulation

Danish EPA finds ban on cosmetic preservative is being observed

5 December 2017 / Biocides, Denmark, Personal care, Product testing

A check by Denmark's EPA on whether a recent ban on the use of methylisothiazolinone (MI) in leave-on cosmetics is being observed, has found that, in most cases, it is.

The agency examined 700 cosmetic products from around 300 brands. It found four products containing the substance. Sales of those products have been suspended.

MI has been banned in Denmark in leave-on products since February.

In May, the Swedish Chemicals Agency Kemi recommended that the use of the substance should be reduced.

Related Articles

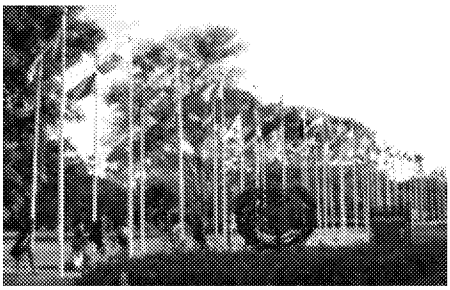
- Sweden wants review of preservatives approved for cosmetic products

Further Information:

- Report (in Danish)

Chemicals under the spotlight at Unea3

5 December 2017 / Global, Voluntary action

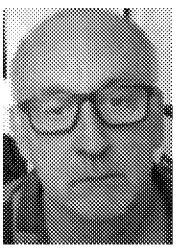


The UN Environment Assembly (Unea3) has begun its annual meeting in Nairobi. This year's event, which runs from 4 to 6 December, will focus primarily on pollution.

The three days of the assembly will see the launch of several projects and reports, including:

- a global partnership on women, chemical safety and sustainable development, run by the Swedish government, Unep and the NGO Ipen;
- the UN Environment's annual flagship *Frontiers Report* this year focuses on antimicrobial resistance, nanomaterials, marine protected areas, sand and dust storms, solar solutions and environmental displacement; and
- a report that looks at mercury levels in COP1 delegates suggests even global decision makers are not protected from the pollutant.

There will be a meeting on marine litter and microplastics and also on the recently published report *Towards a Pollution-Free Planet*. In this, UN Environment executive director, Erik Solheim, outlines actions to tackle hazardous chemicals around the world and highlights substances of concern as needing "targeted intervention".



Nick Hazlewood

News editor

Related Articles

- Head of UN Environment calls for 'targeted intervention' on hazardous chemicals

Further Information:

- Unea3

© 2017. Reprinted and distributed by kind permission of Chemical Watch.