WORKERS AND CHEMICAL RISKS ROUNDTABLE M3-H

A Roundtable on EPA's implementation of the worker provisions of the 2016 amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act

- Dr. Richard Engler, Director of Chemistry, Bergeson and Campbell
- Dr. Tala Henry, Deputy Director OPPT, EPA
- Rebecca Reinde, Safety and Health, AFL-CIO
- Steve Gibb, Moderator

TODAY'S PANEL

- EPA is working through 10 chemical risk reviews from the initial group
- Addressing worker risks is a crucial component of the 2016 amendments to TSCA
- Other statutes, agencies play role in EPA decisions to regulate
- Pigment Violet 29 review found no unreasonable risks
- In its most recent review of methylene chloride the agency found 65 uses pose too great a health risk, and that six do not
- Many of the uses were in industrial settings, in automotive applications and other consumer uses

CHEMICAL RISKS AND WORKERS

- On Nov. 4 EPA made a draft determination that NMP, also called N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, poses some worker risks but not to the environment or non-occupational users
- Some workplace exposures to 1-BP could pose too great a potential harm to employees, EPA concluded in draft August 9 review
- During Sept. 10-12 meeting EPA science advisers questioned the agency's assumption that 100% of workers use personal protective equipment at all times

NMP AND 1 BROMOPROPANE

HBCD FLAME RETARDANTS

- "EPA concludes that HBCD does not present an unreasonable risk of injury to health for workers, occupational non-users, consumers, and the general population by inhalation, oral, or dermal exposure under all conditions of use within the scope of the risk evaluation," including vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly, the agency found in draft review June 28.
- Hexabromocyclododecane, a flame retardant whose production is steadily falling as substitutes are used worldwide

- EPA discretion over what exposure scenarios to examine
- EPA decisions on whether to demand data from companies
- Companies' worker health data and their willingness to share with EPA
- EPA assumptions regarding worker protections such as PPE
- Lag time: "If unreasonable risks are found for workers, would workers be comfortable knowing it will take two-and-a-half years to figure out how to manage their risks?" Alex Dunn said at a June 24 event titled "TSCA: Three Years Later."

KEY ISSUES