



# AIR TOXICS UPDATE

Issue 8–December 2004

Developed quarterly to communicate the efforts underway to characterize and reduce air toxics emissions from major industrial sources, smaller stationary sources, mobile sources, and indoor air sources. By integrating these activities, EPA can better address cumulative public health risks and adverse environmental impacts posed by exposures to multiple air toxics sources. (Newsletter coordinator: [Ellen Wildermann](#) at 919-541-5408)

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**WELCOME** to the December issue of the Air Toxics Update Newsletter!

## **GENERAL NEWS**

### **New Sub-Lead Region**

With the new fiscal year the role of sub-lead region for air toxics has passed from Region 5 to Region 9. The principal contact for air toxics sub-lead issues will be Mike Bandrowski at 415-947-4194, backed up by Ed Snyder 415-947-4186. Issues regarding Regional Air Toxics Coordinators should be directed to Mae Wang (415-947-4124). Air Toxics Risk Assessment issues should be directed to Pam Tsai (415-947-4196), and Integrated Air Toxics and Community-based Program issues should be directed to Susan McDowell (415-947-4188).

### **Changes in OAQPS Air Toxics Contacts**

Welcome Back Yvonne! Yvonne Johnson has come back to the air toxics program. Her new responsibilities will be to coordinate the overall area source program and to lead the area source standard setting workgroup. For more details, see the “Area Source Program” section of the newsletter. Yvonne can be reached at (919) 541-3921. Barbara Driscoll has taken a new position within OAQPS working on Early Action Compacts for the ozone group and PM control strategies for the PM group. We wish her success in her new job! We welcome Holly Wilson who will take over Barbara’s role as team lead for OAR’s Community Air Toxics Risk Assessment and Reductions Projects. She will also serve as the OAQPS contact for community projects in Regions 1, 6, & 7. Holly can be reached at (919) 541-5624.

### **2005 Air Toxics Workshop**

The workshop has been scheduled for March 29-April 1, 2005 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park, NC. The agenda is currently under development. We plan to include sessions on MACT implementation and air toxics risk characterization as well as implementation of air toxics rules. Also, we will have training in Air Toxics 101, risk assessment, and MACTs including Paper and Other Web Coatings, Miscellaneous Metal and Plastic Parts, and Boilers. If you have any suggestions for the agenda, please contact [Lalit Banker](#) at 919-541-5420. We will post additional information at <http://www.cleanairinfo.com/airtoxics2005/>

### **Air Toxics Training for Tribes**

OAQPS, in conjunction with the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals, is hosting a training session in RTP, NC, on January 25-27 for tribal representatives. The four main goals of the training are to provide the tribes with: knowledge about the importance of air toxics; a basic understanding of federal rules and regulations for air toxics; tools and resources for identifying sources of air toxics; and an introduction to air toxics risk assessment. For more information, contact [Kelly Rimer](#) at 919-541-2962.

## **COMMUNITY-BASED RISK ASSESSMENT/REDUCTION PROJECTS**

### **FY'05 Air Toxics Community-Based Program Grants**

The six grant recipients are: St. Louis

Association of Community Organizations (97.5K), JSI Research and Training Institute (55.5K), University of Massachusetts Lowell (61K), Oregon Environmental Council (97K), Minnesota Environmental Council (75K), and CARB (100K). The projects selected are a mix of stationary and indoor source reduction activities.

Contact: [Holly Wilson](#) at 919-541-5624.

**Call For Presenters for July 2005  
Community Involvement Conference:  
“Building Bridges Through Strong  
Partnerships”**

Through December 17, we are soliciting presentation proposals for the 2005 conference to be held July 12–18, 2005, in Buffalo, New York. We are seeking proposals that: share successful approaches or lessons learned; tell a story of overcoming challenges; bring together a panel to present diverse perspectives; provide hands-on examples of techniques and tools; offer opportunities for exercises and role-playing; and/or encourage interactive discussions. When developing your presentation proposal, consider joining with citizens and community groups, as well as with local, federal, state and tribal partners. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, visit the conference web site at

[www.epancic.org/2005/presenters/presenter.cfm](http://www.epancic.org/2005/presenters/presenter.cfm). Contact: [Chris Stoneman](#) at 919-541-0823.

**AREA SOURCE PROGRAM**

**Area Source Program Framework**

EPA is developing an area source program framework through a workgroup which will tackle overarching issues such as source category listing, tracking of categories, litigation, etc. Yvonne Johnson is leading this workgroup ([johnson.yvonne@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.yvonne@epa.gov) or 919-541-3921). Under this "umbrella" workgroup will be three sub-workgroups which will address specific issues. This will include the Standard Setting Workgroup, led by Yvonne, which will look at traditional standard

setting issues; the Flexible Approach Workgroup, led by [Jeff Whitlow](#), which will explore flexible options to regulating area sources; and the Voluntary/P2 Workgroup, led by [Keith Barnett](#), which will address voluntary and pollution prevention options. Stay tuned to future issues of the newsletter for more information as this framework develops.

**Area Source Categories**

Litigation on the area source categories continues. EPA was sued due to failure to complete the standards by the statutory deadline. EPA listed 70 area source categories under the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy. To date, 15 standards have been completed and we have initiated work on 25 source categories (5 of which are under a court order schedule for promulgation). There are still no settlement dates for the remaining 50 categories. For more information regarding area source categories, contact [Yvonne Johnson](#) at 919-541-3921 or [www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/arearules.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/arearules.html).

**RESIDUAL RISK PROGRAM**

The proposed regulation for Coke Ovens Residual Risk was published in the Federal Register on August 9. The proposal moderately tightens the emission standard for the 5 affected facilities to a level which is virtually equivalent to their current level of emissions, thus preventing any backsliding on environmental protection by these facilities. EPA estimated that the implementation of this rule should be possible with only a slight expenditure on the part of the affected facilities. We are currently working through public comments on the proposal and intend to issue the final rule by the court-ordered deadline of March 31, 2005. For the additional residual risk projects (we have begun work on almost 30), we are focusing our resources on the 8 projects for which we have either missed our statutory deadline and EarthJustice has filed intent to sue, or which are under schedule negotiations. For more information on residual risk projects and

contacts, visit

[www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/rrisk/residriskpg.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/rrisk/residriskpg.html).

### **NATIONAL AIR TOXICS ASSESSMENT**

The **National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment for 1999** is nearly complete. As with the 1996 assessment, the 1999 assessment will include the same four steps that were completed for the 1996 assessment: estimated emissions, modeled ambient concentrations, modeled exposure concentrations, and estimated risk. The 1999 assessment includes data tables for 138 hazardous air pollutants (105 more than the 1996 assessment) and will include some new web-based data analysis tools, including GIS-based maps. Based on the current schedule for internal review and production of maps, we expect to release the results via website preview to the Regions, and our partners at the State, local, and Tribal agencies in mid-January and to the public in March 2005. Contact: [Ellen Wildermann](mailto:Ellen.Wildermann@epa.gov) at 919-541-5408.

### **2002 National Emission Inventory**

The draft 2002 National Emission Inventory (NEI) will be available for external review from February 1, 2005 - May 1, 2005 on the CHIEF website at [www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html). Contact: [Anne Pope](mailto:Anne.Pope@epa.gov) at [anne.pope@epa.gov](mailto:anne.pope@epa.gov) or by phone at 919-541-5373.

### **2005 National Emission Inventory**

EPA has started planning for the 2005 National Emission Inventory (NEI) development cycle. EPA is proposing some new improvements including:

- an accelerated schedule to shrink the development cycle from 3 to 2 years to make this data available a year earlier than in previous cycles;
- new web-based tools that will provide instant feedback on data submissions to make the process for correcting data submission errors easier;

- tighter integration between the criteria and hazardous air pollutant emission estimates; and
- more collaboration with State, local, and Tribal data submitters on planning the 2005 NEI Cycle.

Contact: [Doug Solomon](mailto:Doug.Solomon@epa.gov) at [solomon.douglas@epa.gov](mailto:solomon.douglas@epa.gov) or at 919-541-4132.

The **National Emissions on the Net (NEON)** is a tool developed to enable any EPA staff to produce detailed or summary reports (for hazardous air pollutants and criteria pollutants) for emissions inventories which can either be seen on the screen or downloaded. For the URL address, user id, and password contact [Rhonda Thompson](mailto:Rhonda.Thompson@epa.gov) at 919-541-5538.

### **Fate, Exposure & Risk Analysis Website –**

OAQPS has a technical website containing computer models, databases, methodology and guidance documents, and additional information used by EPA and others for air pollutant human exposure modeling, multimedia modeling, and risk analysis. The website address is [www.epa.gov/ttn/fera](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/fera). Contact: [Deirdre Murphy](mailto:Deirdre.Murphy@epa.gov) at 919-541-0729.

### **THE NATIONAL AIR TOXICS MONITORING NETWORK**

In January, state and local agencies will continue their operation of National Air Toxics Trends Sites (NATTS) using FY2004 grant monies. Since the network implementation was phased in, for thirteen sites this marks the third year of measurements, while for nine others it is the second full year of operation. In addition, sixteen community-scale monitoring projects will be initiated in January. Funded through a competitive selection process in FY2004, these community-scale projects that supplement the national trends sites are tailored to identify and characterize local air toxics problems. This provides more spatial coverage and detail than the NATTS network alone.

The analysis of ambient air quality monitoring data on air toxics will continue this year. These analytic efforts have already begun, with work contracted through EPA to the Eastern Research Group, to compile a comprehensive database of all historical air toxics data. It will be supplemented with the first year of NATTS data to characterize and assess the quality of these data. We have contracted additional work through EPA to Sonoma Technologies, Inc. to address program and policy questions using analytic methods and techniques developed in earlier analyses. EPA is planning a workshop for September 2006 to report on and discuss findings from this current work. In addition, the Regional Air Program Managers are forming a working group to further explore means of analyzing ambient air toxics data.

For general toxics monitoring information, visit the Ambient Monitoring Technology Information Center at [www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/airtxfil.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/airtxfil.html) or contact [Rich Scheffe](mailto:Rich.Scheffe@epa.gov) at 919-541-4650.

### **INTEGRATED RISK INFORMATION SYSTEM (IRIS) NEWS**

#### **Formaldehyde IRIS Health Assessment**

NCEA is currently developing a draft assessment of the potential cancer and noncancer health hazards of formaldehyde for IRIS. Formaldehyde is an important industrial chemical used to make other chemicals, building materials, and household products. Following internal review, the draft will be submitted to the SAB for external peer review, and the draft assessment will be made available for public review and comment.

#### **Naphthalene IRIS Health Assessment**

The portion of this document being revised and made available for external review contains a reassessment of the inhalation carcinogenicity of naphthalene with some revisions to additional selected text. This reassessment was undertaken following the release of an NTP (2000) inhalation cancer bioassay indicating

tumor formation in rats. On July 30, 2004, the draft naphthalene assessment was reviewed by an external peer review panel. The comments and recommendations from the expert panel will be addressed in the final document. The naphthalene assessment is of interest to the Department of Defense because of its use as a component of jet fuel. NCEA has met with DOD and briefed them both on the substance of the assessment and the IRIS process for the development of the assessment. The American Chemistry Council has also expressed interest in this draft. In October 2004, this assessment was provided to OMB for an Interagency review.

#### **Dioxin Reassessment, NAS Review Draft**

On October 15, 2004, the EPA transmitted to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) the NAS Review Draft of EPA's *Exposure and Human Health Reassessment of 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-Dioxin (TCDD) and Related Compounds*, in preparation for the first meeting of the NAS panel which was held November 22 and 23, 2004, in Washington, DC. For detailed information on the NAS's dioxin review activity, titled "Review of EPA's Assessment of the Health Implications of Exposure to Dioxins," visit the "Current Projects" section of the NAS website at [www.nas.edu](http://www.nas.edu). This will bring you to a description of the project, a list of the provisional panel, and information about the November meeting.

#### **Release of IRIS Chemical Assessment Tracking System**

ORD has released of a public version of a new IRIS assessment tracking system to allow IRIS users to track progress of assessments under development. The Intranet version for EPA users was released in April 2004. The tracking system will be on the Internet and will mirror the more detailed internal tracking system which will be available to EPA users on the Intranet. The Internet tracking system will display the status of major milestones on the IRIS web site ([www.epa.gov/iris](http://www.epa.gov/iris)). It is expected that this

status information will be of interest to many stakeholders.

For any questions regarding these IRIS updates, please contact Jawauna Greene at (202) 564-3328.

### **COMMUNITY-BASED TOOLS AND GUIDANCE**

EPA is empowering State, local, and Tribal agencies to make their own assessments and decisions on risk strategies by providing them with tools, guidance, and training.

#### ***Reducing Air Toxics in Your Community***

The brochure, *Reducing Air Toxics in Your Community*, is available at [www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html). All printed copies have been distributed to the Regions that requested them. If there is interest, and we have funding, we will print more.

Contact: [Yvonne Chandler](#) at 919-541-5627.

#### **Tools for Communities**

OAQPS is developing a notebook of voluntary emission reductions measures called "Tools for Communities." The purpose of this notebook is to provide information that will encourage local air agencies, community groups, and local businesses to work together to reduce emissions and overall risk in their communities. It is not intended to provide a summary of existing requirements for sources, but instead provides examples of voluntary measures that can result in environmental benefit and cost savings for businesses.

We are developing information sheets for the following:

- Metal operations
- Electroplating
- Fiberglass fabrication
- Ship building and repair
- Autobody shops
- Operations that apply paints, coatings, adhesives

- Paint and coating manufacturing
- Printing Operations
- Wood Furniture operations
- Dry cleaning
- Hospitality industry
- Commercial construction (Green buildings)
- Residential Wood Burning
- Hospitals

We expect to complete this effort by Spring 2005. For more information, please contact [Amanda Aldridge](#) at 919 541-5268.

#### **Air Toxics Risk Assessment Training**

**Course** – This highly interactive course, *Air Toxics Risk Assessment - Tools for Balancing Science and Judgement*, introduces students to the fundamentals of air toxics risk assessment, characterization and communication. For more information, contact [Kelly Rimer](#), OAQPS, at 919-541-2962 or [Ken Mitchell](#), Region IV, at 404-562-9065.

#### **Air Toxics Community Assessment and Risk Reduction Projects Database**

– This database is a resource for the public, Regions, and their State and local partners. The database can be found on the Air Toxics Website at [www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html). If you have a community assessment project that is not in the database, please contact [Yvonne Chandler](#) at 919-541-5627.

#### **The Air Toxics Assessment Reference**

**Library**, a three-volume set, will assist in the transition toward a community-level, risk-based approach to air toxics reduction, as well as supporting members of affected communities who wish to participate in these programs. The first two volumes, the *Technical Resource Manual* and the *Facility-Specific Assessment* document are available on the Agency's Fate, Exposure and Risk Analysis website: [www.epa.gov/ttn/fera/risk\\_atoxic.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/fera/risk_atoxic.html). The third volume, the *Community-Level Risk Assessment Technical Guidance*, is scheduled to

be completed in early 2005. Contact: [Roy Smith](#) at 919-541-5362.

### **Community How-to Manual**

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPTS) will publish the *Community Air Screening How-to Manual* as soon as it completes EPA's product review process. This manual presents and explains a step-by-step process that a community can follow to develop its own community assessment. Contact: [Hank Topper](#), OPPTS, 202-564-8534.

### **MOBILE SOURCE PROGRAM**

#### **TRB Workshop on Mobile Source Air Toxics**

The Transportation Research Board's annual meeting, which attracts about 9,000 transportation professionals from around the world, will have a day-long workshop on mobile source air toxics on January 9, 2005. The workshop will examine a wide range of topics affecting the analysis of mobile source air toxics for transportation projects. The topics include health impacts and risk, emissions modeling, dispersion modeling, air toxic monitoring and data analysis, case studies, and regulatory viewpoints from EPA, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration. Regulatory issues including regional and project-level analyses, National Environmental Protection Act requirements, and mitigation alternatives will be discussed. More information on the TRB annual meeting, which will be held in Washington, DC, is at <http://trb.org/meeting>.

#### **HYROAD Model Posted**

EPA's Support Center for Regulatory Air Models (SCRAM) has posted a new model entitled HYROAD (HYbrid ROADway Model), which integrates three historically individual modules that simulate the effects of traffic, emissions and dispersion. HYROAD is designed to determine hourly concentrations of carbon monoxide (CO) or other gas-phase pollutants, particulate matter (PM) and air

toxics - in consultation with appropriate Reviewing Authority - from vehicle emissions at receptor locations that occur within 500 meters of roadway intersections. See [www.epa.gov/scram001](http://www.epa.gov/scram001).

#### **Idling Grants Awarded**

In October, Administrator Leavitt announced the award of \$1 million in grants to study the effectiveness of using technologies such as truck stop electrification and shore power to decrease engine idling. The nine grant recipients are the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; the South Coast Air Quality Management District, California; the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; the Missouri Department of Natural Resources; the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; the Centralina Council of Governments, North Carolina; Oregon State University; the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; and the Washington State Department of Ecology. Extended idling has a significant impact upon local air quality. On a national scale, extended truck idling contributes, annually, 5,000 tons of particulate matter. Additionally, idling long haul trucks consume over one billion gallons of fuel, costing over \$2 billion annually. Once fully implemented, these grant awards will result in more than 1,000 electrified parking spaces throughout the country which will yield reductions, over a 10-year period, of 120 tons of particulate matter. The grants are part of EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership, a national voluntary program developed by EPA and the freight industry to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases, and to promote cleaner, more efficient ground freight transportation. More information about EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/smartway>.

For any questions regarding the Mobile Source Program, contact [Kathryn Sargeant](#) at 734-214-4441.

## **INDOOR AIR PROGRAM**

### **January 2005 is National Radon Action Month!**

EPA and other organizations nationwide dedicate January as National Radon Action Month to encourage the public to test their homes for radon and get radon problems fixed. Did you know?

- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer
- Nearly one in 15 homes in the U.S. has a high level of indoor radon
- The U.S. Surgeon General and EPA recommend all homes be tested for radon.
- Homes with high radon levels can be fixed.

### **Request for Applications (RFA) for Radon Grants/Funding**

EPA has announced a new funding opportunity, the "Radon Communication, Education, Outreach, And Risk Reduction Projects" - RFA# OAR-ORIA-IED-04-16. The closing date for applications is January 17, 2005. This action solicits proposals from national non-profit organizations, public and private agencies, and institutions of higher learning for projects that will support communication, education, and outreach to address reduction of the public's exposure to elevated levels of indoor radon gas. See [www.epa.gov/air/grants\\_funding.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html) to download the Request for Applications (RFA) - Initial Announcement (a 47 KB, 10 pp., PDF file).

### **New Clean Air Act Advisory Committee State/Local Radon Workgroup**

A new workgroup under the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC) met for the first time on October 14th to develop strategies to increase action at the State and local level on radon risk reduction. The workgroup will reconvene on December 15th, and will forward recommendations to the CAAAC at an upcoming meeting on specific actions EPA,

State and local governments, and the CAAAC should take to reduce the public's radon exposure.

### **Federal Housing Commissioner Takes Action on Radon**

On May 28, 2004, Dr. John C. Weicher, the Federal Housing Commissioner, issued a radon gas and mold notice (H 2004-08) requiring that a release agreement (HUD-9548-E) be included in all sales contracts for HUD-acquired single family properties. The agreement notifies purchasers of the potential health problems caused by exposure to radon and some molds. Required use of the agreement expires on May 31, 2005. In fiscal year 2004, HUD sold about 78,000 Real Estate Owned (REO) single-family properties. View the Commissioner's Notice (H-2004-08) and download the release agreement (HUD-9548-E - a MS Word file) at [www.hudclips.org/sub\\_nonhud/cgi/pdfforms/9548-e.doc](http://www.hudclips.org/sub_nonhud/cgi/pdfforms/9548-e.doc).

### **Launch of Community-based Air Toxics Campaign Initiative**

On February 22-24 in St. Louis, MO, community leaders from air toxics reduction projects in Merrimack Valley, MA, St. Louis, MO, and San Diego, CA will join with Regional and Headquarters staff and expert consensus-building and social marketing consultants to plan for upcoming local toxics reduction campaigns.

### **National Survey on Asthma and Children's Exposure to Second Hand Smoke**

The Office of Radiation and Indoor Air recently completed the analysis on their National Survey on Environmental Management of Asthma and Children's Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke. This is the first national survey which looks at people with asthma in relation to environmental asthma trigger awareness, actions taken to reduce exposure to environmental asthma triggers, and barriers to trigger reduction action. The screening portion of the survey also obtained updated information on all children's

exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS/second hand smoke) which was comparable to that obtained in CDC's 1998 National Health Interview Survey.

The survey was conducted by telephone in both English and Spanish and included all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Data was collected from April to September of 2003. Over 14,000 households, with over 5,000 children, were screened for the presence of an individual with asthma; all households with children were asked about household smoking. Over 2,300 detailed asthma interviews were completed which collected information on medical management, trigger knowledge/awareness, and specific actions taken to reduce exposure.

A fact sheet is available at [www.epa.gov/asthma/pdfs/survey\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/asthma/pdfs/survey_fact_sheet.pdf). For more information, contact Dr. [Susan Conrath](#) at 202-343-9389.

### **MISCELLANEOUS AIR TOXICS ITEMS**

#### **HAP and Source Category Delisting Petitions**

**EGBE:** On November 29, 2004, the EPA published a notice in the Federal Register (69 FR 69320) removing ethylene glycol monobutyl ether (EGBE) from the list of HAP. After extensively reviewing the levels of EGBE in the air and the associated health and environmental impacts, EPA has concluded that potential outdoor exposures to EGBE may not reasonably be anticipated to cause human health or environmental problems.

**MEK:** On May 30, 2003, EPA proposed to delist methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) from the HAP list. Before making the final determination whether to delist MEK, EPA scientists will evaluate new data on a related chemical, methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK). Thus, the decision whether to delist MEK is still pending.

**Combustion Turbines:** We proposed to delist 4 subcategories of the combustion turbines

source category on April 7, 2004. The four subcategories are: 1) lean premix gas-fired turbines, 2) diffusion flame gas-fired turbines, 3) emergency stationary combustion turbines, and, 4) stationary combustion turbines operated on the North Slope of Alaska. We expect to make a final decision on this delisting in 2005. Also on April 7, and related to this proposal, we proposed to stay the effectiveness of the combustion turbines MACT for the four subcategories until the Agency reaches a final decision on the delisting. The final stay was published in the Federal Register on August 18, 2004.

**Two-Piece Can:** Work continues on the two-piece beer and beverage can subcategory petition.

**MDI:** We returned the 4,4 methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) petition to the petitioner with technical questions about how they determined emissions. We received those data and are currently reviewing them.

**MIBK:** On July 19, 2004 we published a notice in the Federal Register (69 FR 42954) announcing that we have received a complete petition to delist Methyl Isobutyl Ketone from the HAP list. The notice announced the beginning of our technical review of the petition and solicited technical information from interested parties that would assist us in the review. Public comment closed on August 18, 2004. We are currently conducting a technical review of the petition.

**Taconite Ore:** We received a petition from the taconite ore industry to delist the taconite ore processing source category from the source category list in December, 2003. After our initial review, we found the petition incomplete and requested more information from the petitioner. If we receive the information, we will continue evaluating the petition.

For more information on deletion petitions, contact [Kelly Rimer](#) at 919-541-2962.

## **Notice of Data Availability for Proposed Mercury Rule**

On December 1, EPA published a Notice of Data Availability (NODA) for its proposed Clean Air Mercury Rule in the Federal Register (69 FR 69864). The NODA summarizes public comments received during the comment period on a number of issues and solicits further comment on these issues to help EPA as it moves toward finalizing regulations to reduce mercury emissions from power plants. EPA will take comments through January 3, 2005. For more information on the NODA, visit: [www.epa.gov/mercury/control\\_emissions/noda.htm](http://www.epa.gov/mercury/control_emissions/noda.htm). For more information on the Clean Air Mercury Rule, visit: [www.epa.gov/air/mercuryrule/](http://www.epa.gov/air/mercuryrule/).

**Clean Air Act Section 112 General Provisions Amendments Status** – We are currently drafting a Federal Register notice that will respond to the Natural Resources Defense Council's July 29, 2003, petition to reconsider certain aspects of the amendments to the startup, shutdown, and malfunction plans required by the part 63 General Provisions. The notice will solicit comment on the reconsideration response. Contact: [Rick Colyer](#) at 919-541-5262.

## **UPCOMING CALLS**

### **Regional Air Toxic Coordinators (RATC)**

Monthly: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 2:00 ET  
Lead: [Tom Link](#) 919-541-5456

### **Community Assessment Network (CAN)**

Bi-monthly: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 12:30 ET  
Lead: [Peter Murchie](#) 503-326-6554

### **Air Toxics Risk Assessment (ATRA)**

Monthly: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 11:00 ET  
Lead: [Pam Tsai](#) 415-947-4196

### **Integrated Air Toxics Strategy Call (IATS)**

Monthly: Last Thursday at 2:00 ET  
Co-leads: [Jeff Whitlow](#) 919-541-5523, and [Susan McDowell](#) 415-947-4188.

## **SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Transportation Research Board's Annual **Workshop on Mobile Source Air Toxics** on January 9, 2005 in Washington, DC.  
<http://trb.org/meeting>

**Air Toxics Training for Tribes** on January 25-27 2005 in Research Triangle Park, NC.  
Contact: [Kelly Rimer](#) at 919-541-2962.

**Air Toxics Workshop** March 29-April 1, 2005 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park, NC. Contact: [Lalit Banker](#) at 919-541-5420.  
[www.cleanairinfo.com/airtoxics2005/](http://www.cleanairinfo.com/airtoxics2005/)

**14th Annual International Emission Inventory Conference "Transforming Emission Inventories - Meeting Future Challenges Today"** on April 11 - 14, 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada.  
[www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/conferences.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/conferences.html)  
Contact: [Dennis Beauregard](#) at 919-541-5512

**Community Involvement Conference: "Building Bridges Through Strong Partnerships"** July 12–18, 2005, in Buffalo, New York  
[www.epancic.org/2005/presenters/presenter.cfm](http://www.epancic.org/2005/presenters/presenter.cfm). Contact: [Chris Stoneman](#) at 919-541-0823.

## **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**R**This section highlights toxics risk-related activities occurring in the Regions. If your Region has a project you'd like to include in the next issue, please contact [Ed Snyder](#), Region 9, at 415-947-4186.

### **Region 1**

**Airport Monitoring Study in Rhode Island** - EPA has funded a community assessment grant under the national toxics monitoring program for an airport monitoring study in Rhode Island. The monitoring study will characterize ambient air toxics concentrations in neighborhoods near

the T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island. The project will characterize the air toxics levels and associated cancer and non-cancer risks in several neighborhoods in Warwick and will determine the contribution of various airport-related emissions, as well as industrial and on-road mobile source emissions, to that risk. Monitoring is expected to begin in 2005.

**Joint Resolution on Backyard Burning** - The eight Northeast State Commissioners and the EPA Region 1 and EPA Region 2 Administrators signed a joint resolution titled "Don't Trash Our Air," a resolution to promote interstate cooperation to reduce air pollution from open burning of solid waste. The resolution was developed, with the support of EPA, by air quality and solid waste officials representing Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA). Backyard burning of solid waste is an important challenge in the overall efforts to control dioxin and other air pollutant emissions in the Northeast. For a copy of the joint resolution go to: [www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/BurningResolution.htm](http://www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/BurningResolution.htm).

For more information on Region 1 projects, contact [Susan Lancey](#) at (617) 918-1656.

### Region 3

#### **Maryland Air Toxics Projects**

EPA Region 3 has been working with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on two air toxics reduction projects. A \$300,000 grant has been awarded to MDE for the projects in East Baltimore and central Prince George's County, Maryland. MDE plans to retrofit 150 diesel sanitation trucks, school buses, and transit buses in both communities with Diesel Oxidation Catalysts and other verified retrofit technologies. In addition to the retrofits, MDE will provide outreach and compliance assistance to

drycleaners, gasoline stations, and autobody shops within East Baltimore and central Prince George's County.

MDE has termed these areas "Environmental Benefits Districts" (EBD), which are locations where the State, EPA and other stakeholders can focus their resources to address the environmental concerns of the targeted communities. In addition to the recent \$300,000 grant, Region III previously awarded \$100,000 to subsidize the purchase of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for the 165-bus fleet that serves East Baltimore communities. These projects will result in reductions of volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and air toxics emissions in major metropolitan areas. For more information, contact [Ray Chalmers](#) at 215-814-2061.

### Region 5

#### **Catch Your Breath Women & Lung Health Conference and Luncheon held by the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago**

The American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ALA), a USEPA grantee and major partner assisted us in increasing public awareness regarding the dangers of secondhand smoke, specifically to those who have asthma and other lung diseases. In addition, on November 10, 2004, Joel J. Africk, Chief Executive Officer of ALA, staff and many other sponsors held their first Annual Catch Your Breath Luncheon and Women and Lung Health Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago. USEPA staff along with many other participants discussed the disproportionate impact of lung disease on women. Dr. James Kiley from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at NIH and Keynote Speaker shared the breathtaking numbers. Lung cancer kills more women than breast, ovarian and cervical cancer combined. More women die of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) than men and 65% of asthma deaths occur in women. More than half of the one million people in Metropolitan Chicago suffering from lung

disease are women. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Kathy Brock, ABC 7 - TV Anchor and Celebrity Keynote Speaker. Kaitlin Sandeno, Olympic Swimmer and Four-Time Medalist, who has asthma, shared her many challenges as a survivor and champion. Awards were given to The Kotsiantos Family who lost a family member to lung disease and continue to support efforts to raise awareness about lung disease. Further, the Illinois Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, who has steadfastly supported women's issues, the environment and health care throughout her career was awarded for her excellent service.

**Living Well with COPD Luncheon held by the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago** - Also, on November 30, 2004, The ALA held the Living Well with COPD Luncheon at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. Many seniors and others who have COPD attended. COPD refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing-related problems. It includes Emphysema and Chronic Bronchitis. In the United States, tobacco use is a key factor in the development and progression of COPD, but asthma, exposure to air pollutants in the home and workplace, genetic factors, and respiratory infections also play a role. The local experts speaking were from Loyola University Medical Center and Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

If you would like more information regarding these two events, please contact [Fayette Bright](#) at 312-886-6069.

**Detroit Air Toxics Initiative (DATI) Update**  
The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) developed the DATI to assess the local health risks from air toxics in the Detroit area, to communicate the resulting information to the local community, and to support and fund risk reduction initiatives for the area. The project was funded with 2003 CARRI funds and is expected to be completed

by 3/31/2005.

The project includes both a risk assessment and a risk reduction component. The assessment component capitalizes on the vast amount of monitoring data that currently exists for the Detroit area. Data from several monitoring studies/projects are being utilized to characterize risk, focusing mainly on the Detroit Pilot Project, which was an intensive one-year air toxics monitoring study that included seven sites in the Detroit area and one upwind site in Washtenaw County. Although not formally included in the Pilot, an additional background site was included for the DATI. Additional air toxics monitoring data collected by MDEQ outside of the Pilot was also considered, as well as emissions inventory data to help characterize the sources and pollutants of greatest concern. This is an innovative project, as most risk assessments performed to date have not used monitoring data in this way. MDEQ just finished the first draft of their technical Risk Assessment Report and distributed it to the stakeholder group for comment. They are currently soliciting input from the group on the draft and are planning to incorporate comments from the group as necessary. Additionally, MDEQ developed a plain-language summary for wider distribution to the general public and media. The results from the risk assessment phase of the project will be used to aid in identification and prioritization of risk reduction activities that could be funded through the risk reduction phase of the project. MDEQ hopes to move quickly towards identifying and implementing risk reductions by utilizing the stakeholder group to help identify and prioritize risk reduction activities and facilitate communications to the local community. Contact [Jaime Julian](#) at 312-886-9402 for more information.

**Grants Awarded by Region 5 for Indoor Air Quality** - Region 5 recently awarded one grant to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and two cooperative

agreements, one to Hurley Foundation and the other to Selby General Hospital. MDEQ received a continuing State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG). Hurley Foundation's cooperative agreement will fund the "Pediatric Asthma Education in Genesee County Homes and Communities" project in Flint, Michigan. Selby General Hospital's cooperative agreement will fund the "Homes 4 Better Air Quality--Secondhand Smoke" project in Marietta, Ohio. For further information, please contact [Helen Tsiapas](#), (312) 886-7901.

### **Clean School Bus USA Rolls Out More Funds for Cleaner School Buses in Region 5 for 2004**

Building on the 2003 Clean School Bus USA Demonstration Program, Congress again allocated \$5 million for school bus retrofit and replacement grants in 2004. EPA announced the selection of 20 projects for funding in June 2004. Four of these are located in Region 5:

- Illinois - City of Chicago Department of Environment is receiving \$315,000 to work with Chicago Public Schools, American Lung Association and Illinois EPA to retrofit at least 100 school buses. This includes both oxidation catalysts and particulate filters;
- Indiana - Indiana Department of Environmental Management will receive \$250,000 to retrofit about 227 school buses in Evansville and near Indianapolis with diesel oxidation catalysts.
- Michigan - Ann Arbor and Manchester Public Schools will receive \$95,357 to retrofit approximately 110 buses with diesel oxidation catalysts and operate buses in MPS with biodiesel.
- Michigan - Okemos Public Schools will receive \$70,000 to equip at least 40 buses with diesel oxidation catalysts in seven different school districts.

For further information, please see [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus), or contact [Sheila Batka](#), 312-886-6053.

### **Region 9**

**Regions 9 and 10 Join Forces for West Coast Diesel Collaborative** - Emissions from diesel engines contribute to unhealthy levels of fine particles, ozone as well as other air toxics. EPA estimates emissions from diesel engines result in roughly 3,000 premature deaths each year. Fine particles aggravate respiratory ailments, like asthma, and are associated with an increased risk of hospitalization for heart and lung disease. Recent evidence suggests long-term exposure to diesel exhaust may cause lung cancer.

In response to growing concerns and heightened awareness of the negative environmental and public health impacts from diesel exhaust on the West Coast, Regions 9 and 10 combined their efforts to create a unique public-private partnership. In June, a consortium of federal government agencies from the U.S., Canada and Mexico, state and local governments, nonprofit and private sector partners from California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and British Columbia met and established the West Coast Diesel Emissions Reductions Collaborative (the Collaborative). The Collaborative is built upon the success of EPA's Clean School Bus USA Initiative, DOE's Clean Cities Program, California's Carl Moyer Clean Engine Incentive Program, Washington's Diesel Solutions Program, Oregon's Business Energy Tax Credit Program as well as other federal and state voluntary emissions reductions programs. The energy, involvement and sheer number of Collaborative partners triggered the organization of five sector workgroups: Trucking, Marine Vessels and Ports, Locomotives and Rail, Construction and Distributed Generation and Agriculture to concentrate their diesel mitigation efforts. Utilizing the collaborative process has enabled the group to identify, establish and support regional diesel mitigation projects. The Collaborative also acts as an information

sharing resource, creating a regional network that connects innovative technologies with industry partners and bridges the gap between international, federal, state and local officials to streamline diesel mitigation efforts along the West Coast.

On September 30, the Collaborative hosted eight simultaneous press events from Seattle's Princess Cruise Line Electrification to the San Diego and Tijuana's Border Demonstration Project. Governors from Oregon and Washington, along with EPA Administrator Leavitt, and EPA Regional Administrators Wayne Nastri and Ron Kreizenbeck, attended events, each of which showcased diesel mitigation projects and the success of the Collaborative.

Ultimately, the Collaborative intends to obtain and leverage millions of dollars in new federal funds for diesel emissions reductions projects to reduce diesel exhaust from the most hazardous diesel sources in the most impacted communities and significantly improve air quality and public health. The benefits of these investments will significantly outweigh the costs by targeting the higher polluting engines and applying the most cost-effective strategies.

For more information go to: [www.epa.gov/air/westcoastdiesel](http://www.epa.gov/air/westcoastdiesel) or contact Ed Snyder at 415-947-4186.

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For more information on air toxics visit the Air Toxics Website at [www.epa.gov/ttn/atw](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw)

**Look for the next issue in March  
2005**

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