Office of Children's Health Protection

Children's Environmental Health Newsletter
October 2018

October is Children's Health Month!

In honor of Children's Health Month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of nearly $30 million to support safe drinking water and cleaner air. EPA is making $20 million available for states and tribes to test for lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. At the same time, EPA is announcing approximately $9 million in rebates to public school us fleet owners to help them replace older school buses with cleaner, more modern vehicles.

To coincide with Children's Health Day 2018, EPA has developed a new report highlighting major initiatives related to children's health and healthy learning environments. Find the report here

The Office of Children's Health Protection at EPA has developed this newsletter to get you engaged in children's environmental health activities occurring throughout the agency. Here, you can access information on opportunities for public comment on EPA rulemakings, risk assessments, upcoming outreach events, grant opportunities, and other federal children's environmental health announcements.

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- $20 Million Available for States and Tribes through the WIIN Grant: Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Program Drinking Water, **deadline to submit letter of intent January 11, 2019**

Upcoming Webinars & Events

- EPA IRIS to Hold **December 10-11, 2018** Workshop on Systematic Review for Mechanistic Data.

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- Surgeon General's *Call to Action*: "Community Health and Prosperity," Public Comment Opportunity by **November 5, 2018**

Announcements & Updates

Be Part of an International Campaign to Ban Lead Paint Worldwide

This year, the sixth annual **International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW)** will take place during the week of ***October 21-27, 2018***. The ILPPW provides an opportunity to raise awareness globally about the human health effects of lead exposure, and to promote actions to prevent lead exposure. During the week, governments, academia, industry and civil society in many countries take actions to promote efforts to reduce childhood lead poisoning, specifically promoting the development of laws to eliminate lead paint. Last year, over 67 ILPPW events took place in 44 countries.

For stakeholders ready to take action, the **2018 ILPPW Resource Package** for the international campaign is now available! This year's Resource Package provides customizable tools and materials for governments, businesses and local groups to share with diverse audiences, including;

- Key messages;
- Suggested actions for governments, industry and civil society organizations;
- Suggestions for creating an outreach campaign, organizing awareness activities, and developing social media and multimedia outreach;
- Available tools for developing effective laws; and
- Customizable graphic materials such as posters, flyers and web banners.

Click here for more information on ILPPW 2018

EPA Takes First Steps in Identifying Next Group of Chemicals for Risk Evaluation under TSCA

The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act amended the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Amended TSCA risk evaluations will be conducted to determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk including to a "…potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation…," defined as a group, such as infants, children, and pregnant women, at greater risk than the general population to develop adverse health effects after exposure to a chemical. The first group of ten high priority chemicals under amended TSCA are currently undergoing risk evaluation. By December 2019, EPA must designate at least 20 chemical substances as High-Priority for risk evaluation and 20 chemical substances as Low-Priority for which risk evaluation is not currently warranted.

On September 28, 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the approach it will use to identify chemicals that could be included in the next group of risk evaluations under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The document released lays out EPA's near-term approach for identifying potential chemicals for prioritization, the initial step in evaluating the safety of existing chemicals under TSCA. The document also includes a longer-term risk-based strategy for managing the larger TSCA chemical landscape which, according to the TSCA Inventory, is composed of more than 40,000 active chemicals. After the Federal Register notice publishes, EPA will open a public docket to accept comments on this longer-term strategy, which will inform its continued development and help outline a public meeting to be held in early 2019. Click here, for more information.

Upon publication of the Federal Register notice, EPA will open 73 chemical-specific public dockets, one for each of the remaining chemicals on the 2014 TSCA Work Plan. Additionally, there will be a general docket open for the public to suggest chemicals for risk evaluation that are not on the Work Plan. With this action, the Agency will be providing the public an opportunity to submit use, hazard, and exposure information on these chemicals. EPA will use this data to inform TSCA prioritization and risk evaluation for these chemicals. For more information

This is an important first step in determining which chemicals will be prioritized for risk evaluation as EPA fulfills its obligations under TSCA and ensures chemicals in the marketplace are safe for human health and the environment."

Pesticide Interim Registration Review Decision for Boric Acid/Sodium Salts

A Registration Review decision is the EPA's final determination on whether a pesticide meets the standard for registering pesticides. An interim decision based on the human health assessment can be issued before completing all required findings related to ecological impacts. Please note that only children's health concerns are highlighted here. There may be other human health or ecological concerns described in the relevant documents.

Boric Acid/Sodium Salts:

- **What is it:** Boron is a naturally occurring substance found in food and water.
- **How it is used:** Boron is used to control various pests, and is also used as a preservative, as an antimicrobial, and as an inert ingredient in pesticide and non-pesticide products.
- **What are the risks to children:** There are risks of concern for children (ages 1 to <2 years) from the indoor use for bed bug treatments to carpets and general indoor spray treatments to carpets.
- **What is the EPA's response?** To address these potential risks, the Agency is requiring that the use of boric acid/sodium salts products for the control of bed bugs on carpet be terminated, and that general carpet treatment application rates be prohibited.

- **What are the next steps?** A final Registration Review decision is will be issued after completing all required findings.

Click here to see the Boric Acid/Sodium Salts Interim Registration Review Decision.
Click here for more information about the Pesticide Registration Review Process

Public Comment Opportunities

Request for Nominations of Experts for the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC): Nominations due by October 29, 2018

The TSCA SACC serves as a primary scientific peer review group of EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. The role of this committee is to provide scientific advice, information and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on chemicals regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act. EPA is requesting nominations of experts for ad hoc participation and potential membership on the TSCA SACC.

Nominees will be considered for ad hoc participation in TSCA SACC's peer reviews of EPA's risk evaluations for the first 10 chemicals being reviewed under TSCA. In addition, nominees will be considered for TSCA SACC membership to fulfill short term needs when a vacancy occurs on the chartered Committee.

Click here for more information about the first 10 chemical risk evaluations. Click here to read the Federal Register notice requesting nominations.

Nominations should be submitted to the Designated Federal Official, Todd Peterson, Ph.D. (peterson.todd@epa.gov or 202-564-6428), on or **before October 29, 2018.**

Atrazine draft Human Health Risk Assessment: Public Comment by November 23, 2018

EPA has released draft human health risk assessments for the pesticides atrazine, simazine, and propazine. EPA has also released a draft cumulative human health risk assessment for these pesticides as a common mechanism group, chlorotriazine herbicides. Since the last human health assessment, new scientific literature has been published which includes epidemiological and toxicity studies on development effects. Epidemiological studies can be found in the Appendices of each risk assessment, and toxicity studies can be found here.

Atrazine

- **What is it?** Atrazine is an herbicide used on agricultural crops and turf, including residential lawns and golf courses.
- **What are the risks to children?** The assessment found that children who crawl and play on lawns sprayed with atrazine can potentially be at risk.
- **How to reduce the risk to children:** By reducing the amount of atrazine applied to lawns and gardens, the risk to children can be mitigated.

- **Next steps:** EPA will consider public comments submitted until **November 23, 2018**.

Click here to provide comments and to see the Atrazine Draft Human Health Risk Assessment for Registration Review.
Click here for more information on atrazine from EPA.
Click here for additional documents and more information [Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0266]

Simazine

- **What is it?** Simazine is an herbicide used on agricultural crops, nursery crops, Christmas trees, turf, including residential lawns and golf courses.
- **What are the risks to children?** The assessment found that children who crawl and play on lawns sprayed with simazine can potentially be at risk. Additional potential risks to children can come from spray drift after simazine is applied to grapefruits and oranges.
- **How to reduce the risk to children:** By reducing the amount of simazine applied to lawns and gardens, the risk to children can be mitigated. Additionally, potential risks from exposure to simazine can be reduced to children by creating a 10-foot buffer from the field edge.
- **Next steps:** EPA will consider public comments submitted until November 23, 2018.

Click here to provide comments and to see the Simazine Draft Human Health Risk Assessment for Registration Review.
Click here for additional documents and more information [Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0251]

Propazine

- **What is it?** Propazine is an herbicide used on sorghum fields and greenhouse ornamentals.
- **What are the risks to children?** The assessment did not identify any potential risks to children from the relevant exposure routes (dietary, spray drift).
- **Next steps:** EPA will consider public comments submitted until **November 23, 2018**.

Click here to provide comments and to see the Propazine Draft Human Health Risk Assessment for Registration Review.
Click here for additional documents and more information [Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0250]

Chlorotriazine Herbicides Cumulative Risk Assessment

- **What are the risks to children?** Aside from any potential individual risks these three pesticides pose to children on their own, a cumulative risk assessment has found risks of concern to children from granular application.
- **How to reduce the risk to children?** By reducing the application of these pesticides, the risk to children can be mitigated.
- **Next steps:** EPA will consider public comments submitted until **November 23, 2018**.

Click here to provide comments and to see the Cumulative Risk Assessment for Atrazine, Propazine, and Simazine.

Request for Nominations of Scientific Experts to Be Considered for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) Through Membership on the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) Science Review Board

(SRB) by November 13, 2018

The EPA requests public nominations of scientific experts to be considered for ad hoc participation on the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) through membership on the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) Science Review Board (SRB). All nominees will be considered for ad hoc participation providing independent scientific advice to the EPA on health and safety issues related to pesticides. The FIFRA SAP is comprised of biologists, statisticians, toxicologists and other experts and is assisted in their reviews by members of the FQPA SRB.

Individuals nominated should have expertise in one or more of the following areas: Biochemistry; chemistry; epidemiology; human health risk assessment; pathology; PBPK modeling; aquatic modeling; pharmacology; ecological risk assessment; environmental exposure and fate; environmental toxicology; occupational, consumer, and general exposure assessment; toxicology; dose response modeling; environmental engineering; statistics; water quality monitoring; hydrologist; GIS specialist; computational toxicology; entomology; veterinary entomology; medical entomology, insect ecology, allergenicity, research veterinarian; inhalation toxicology; volatile organics; endocrinology, alternative testing methods, high throughput testing approaches, adverse outcome pathways, cross species extrapolation, and systematic review. Nominees should be scientists who have sufficient professional qualifications, including training and experience, and can provide expert comments on the pesticide health and safety related issues for a FIFRA SAP meeting.

Click here for more information and to submit nominations by **November 13, 2018**.

Transfluthrin: New Pyrethroid Active Ingredient Proposed Registration

Transfluthrin:

- **What is it?** Transfluthrin is a new pyrethroid insecticide. Pyrethroids are a group of insecticides used widely in and around households, including on pets and in treated clothing, in mosquito control, and in agriculture.
- **How is it used?** EPA has proposed a use as an area repellent in semi-enclosed and enclosed spaces in residential settings. The proposed product is formulated as an impregnated textile passive diffusion device in garages, barns, tents, campers, and outdoor areas such as patios and porches.
- **What are the risks to children?** Although there are exposure scenarios for children, there are no risk estimates of concern for any lifestage.
- **Next steps?** The EPA is considering comments received prior to September 14, 2018.

Click here to provide comments and to see the Human Health Risk Assessment for Transfluthrin

Click here for additional documents and more information [Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0581]

Click here for more information on Pyrethrins and Pyrethroids from EPA.

EPA Grant Opportunities

$9 Million in Grant Funding Available in Rebates to Public School Bus Fleet Owners to Replace with Cleaner, More Modern Vehicles; Accepting applications from September 28 to November 6, 2018.

EPA announced approximately $9 million in rebates to upgrade school buses with older engines, which reduces diesel emissions and improves air quality. This is the sixth rebate program to fund cleaner school buses offered under Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) appropriations. DERA funding has supported nearly 25,000 cleaner buses across the country for America's schoolchildren.

EPA standards for new diesel engines make them more than 90 percent cleaner than older ones, but many older diesel engines still in operation predate these standards. Older diesel engines emit large quantities of pollutants such as particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen oxides (NOx), which have been linked to serious health problems such as aggravated asthma and lung damage. EPA will accept applications from **September 28 to November 6, 2018**.

Click here to learn more about rebate program, applicant eligibility, selection process and informational webinar dates.

Notice of Grant Funding Guidance to establish and enhance State and Tribal Response Programs for FY2019, accepting requests from October 15, 2018 through December 14, 2018

The amended CERCLA [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act] has authorized a noncompetitive $50 million grant program to establish and enhance state and tribal response programs to address the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields sites and other sites with actual or perceived contamination.

The EPA will accept requests from **October 15, 2018 through December 14, 2018** for grant funding.

Click here for more information and to see the Federal Register Notice.

WIIN Grant: Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking water, $20 million in funding available; submit letters of intent to EPA by January 11, 2019.

Authorized under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant creates a program to assist with voluntary testing for lead in drinking water at schools and child care programs. The grant will include a total of $20 million in funding for states, including $1.2 million set aside specifically for tribal schools. EPA has requested that states interested in participating in the grant program submit letters of

intent to EPA by **January 11, 2019**. To support the new grant program, EPA has updated its 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water. The updated document will assist schools and childcare facilities with developing lead in drinking water prevention programs through EPA's 3Ts – training, testing, and taking action. Together, EPA's new grants and the 3Ts, will provide states and schools with the tools they need to help protect children from lead in drinking water.

Click here to learn more.

To learn more about the grant program and what to include in the letter of intent, EPA is offering several webinar trainings this month. See below for more information on the webinars and to register.

Upcoming Webinars & Events

EPA IRIS to Hold December 10-11, 2018 Workshop on Systematic Review for Mechanistic Data

EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) is convening a workshop titled, "Strategies and Tools for Conducting Systematic Reviews of Mechanistic Data to Support Chemical Assessments," in Washington D.C. In order to assist the EPA with developing guidance on conducting systematic reviews of mechanistic data when supporting chemical assessments, this workshop will explore relevant strategies and tools being developed and utilized across the systematic review and risk assessment communities. By developing guidance/methods for systematic reviews and evaluation of mechanistic data for particular chemicals, the agency can better understand the mechanism of action, including the potential for a chemical to cause developmental effects.

Click here for more information or contact Dahnish Shams at shams.dahnish@epa.gov

Federal Partners' Children's Environmental Health Announcements

Surgeon General's Call to Action: "Community Health and Prosperity" , Public Comment Opportunity by November 5th, 2018

The Office of the Surgeon General, with support from Center for Disease Control and Prevention, plans to publish a *Call to Action* that will be science-informed and actionable on the link between investments in community health and community health outcomes and other measures of well-being and economic prosperity. The goal of the *Call to Action* is to 1) clearly demonstrate that investments in community health have the potential to improve the health and prosperity of communities and 2) to issue a *Call To Action* to the private sector and local policy makers for investment in communities to improve community health. The CDC is inviting interested persons and organizations to submit written views, recommendations, and data on the connection between community health and prosperity, business investment in local community health, investment strategies, the role of a healthy workforce in business success, and contributions of local policymakers toward community development.

Click here for additional documents and to provide public comment. [Docket CDC-2018-0082]

About this newsletter:
https://www.epa.gov/children/childrens-environmental-health-newsletter