

associated with certain natural geologic conditions, as well as with contamination from human activities. Arsenic ingestion is linked to skin cancer and arsenic inhalation to lung cancer. In addition, arsenic ingestion seems to be associated with vascular effects, gastrointestinal irritation, and cancers of the kidney, bladder, liver, lung, and other organs. Water primarily contains inorganic arsenic species (As^{V} and As^{III}), which tend to be more toxic than organic forms.

In 1976 EPA issued a National Interim Primary Drinking Water Regulation for arsenic at 50 parts per billion (ppb; ug/L). Under the 1986 amendments to SDWA, Congress directed EPA to publish Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and promulgate National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) for 83 contaminants, including arsenic. When EPA failed to meet the statutory deadline for promulgating an arsenic regulation, a citizens' group filed suit to compel EPA to do so. EPA entered into a consent decree to issue the regulation. EPA held internal workgroup meetings throughout 1994, addressing risk assessment, treatment, analytical methods, arsenic occurrence, exposure, costs, implementation issues, and regulatory options before deciding in early 1995 to defer the regulation in order to better characterize health effects.

On August 6, 1996, Congress amended the SDWA, adding section 1412(b)(12)(A) which requires, in part, that EPA propose an NPDWR for arsenic by January 1, 2000 and issue a final regulation by January 1, 2001. The current maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 50 ug/L remains in effect until the effective date of the revised rule.

The 1996 amendments to the SDWA also directed EPA to develop by February 1997, a comprehensive arsenic research plan to assess health risks associated with exposure to low levels of arsenic. In December 1996, EPA announced the availability of the draft arsenic research plan, and the public had an opportunity to comment on the paper at a scientific peer review meeting in January 1997. EPA reported to Congress in late January that the plan was publicly available and would be revised after consideration of the final report of the scientific peer review group, which was subsequently published May 8, 1997. EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) submitted the final arsenic research plan to Congress in February 1998, and the final plan will be available on the ORD webpage in April. In conducting the studies in the arsenic research plan, EPA will consult with the National

Academy of Sciences, other Federal agencies, and other interested public and private parties.

B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA intends for the proposed NPDWR for arsenic to incorporate the best available science, risk assessment, treatment technologies, occurrence data, cost/benefit analyses, and stakeholder input on technical and implementation issues.

The stakeholders meeting will cover a broad range of issues including: (1) Regulatory process, including risk management decisions; (2) arsenic risk assessment (exposure, health assessment, national occurrence); (3) key technical assessments (treatment technologies, treatment residuals, cost, analytical methods, co-occurrence of contaminants); (4) small system concerns; and (5) future stakeholder involvement. Background materials on arsenic in drinking water issues will be sent in advance of the meeting to those who register with the Safe Drinking Water Hotline by Friday, April 24, 1998.

EPA has announced this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on EPA's plans for activities to develop an NPDWR for arsenic. The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above and other issues related to the arsenic in drinking water regulation during the May 5, 1998 meeting and during future opportunities for stakeholder participation.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

Elizabeth Fellows,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Environmental Protection Agency.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5989-1]

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or Superfund, Section 311 (b)(9)(A), CERCLA Section 311(b)(3); Announcement of Competition for EPA's Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency will begin accepting applications for Brownfields Job Training and Development

Demonstration Pilots through May 29, 1998. The application period will close May 29, 1998 and the Agency intends to competitively select ten Pilots by July 8, 1998.

DATES: This action is effective as of March 31, 1998. All proposals must be received by the May 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested applicants must submit both a response to the Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot Guidelines and a grant application package. Application packages can be obtained from the EPA Grants Administration Division by calling (202) 564-5305. Interested applicants MUST complete an application. Job training guidelines can be obtained via the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>, or by calling the Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 (TDD for the hearing impaired at 1-800-553-7672).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Myra Blakely, Outreach and Special Projects Staff, (202) 260-4527.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots will each be funded up to \$200,000 over two-years. These funds are to be used to bring together community groups, job training organizations, employers, investors, lenders, developers, and other affected parties to address the issue of providing training for residents in communities impacted by brownfields. The goals of the pilots are to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites contaminated with hazardous substances and prepare the trainees for future employment in the environmental field.

EPA expects to select approximately 10 Brownfields Environmental Job Training and Development pilots by the end of July 1998. Pilot applicants must be located within or near one of the 121 pre-1998 brownfields assessment pilot communities. Colleges, universities, non-profit training centers, community-based job training organizations, states, cities, towns, counties, U.S. Territories, and Federally recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to apply for funds. EPA welcomes and encourages applications from coalitions of such entities, but a single eligible entity must be identified as the legal recipient. Entities with experience in providing environmental job training and placement programs are invited to apply. The deadline for applications is May 29, 1998.

EPA's Brownfields Initiative is an organized commitment to help

communities revitalize abandoned contaminated properties, and to thereby eliminate potential health risks and restore economic vitality to areas where these properties exist. EPA defines brownfields as abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Submission to Congress and the General Accounting Office

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this action and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Dated: March 25, 1998.

Linda Garczynski,

*Director, Outreach and Special Projects Staff,
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.*

[FR Doc. 98-8250 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-44647; FRL-5780-2]

TSCA Chemical Testing; Receipt of Test Data

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces EPA's receipt of test data on alkyl glycidyl ether (CAS No. 120547-52-6). These data were submitted pursuant to an enforceable testing consent agreement/order issued by EPA under section 4 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Publication of this notice is in compliance with section 4(d) of TSCA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. E-543B, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 554-1404,

TDD (202) 554-0551; e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 40 CFR 790.60, all TSCA section 4 enforceable consent agreements/orders must contain a statement that results of testing conducted pursuant to testing enforceable consent agreements/orders will be announced to the public in accordance with procedures specified in section 4(d) of TSCA.

I. Test Data Submissions

Test data for alkyl glycidyl ether were submitted by the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI) Epoxy Resin Systems AGE Task Force. The following companies comprise the Task Force: Air Products and Chemicals Inc.; Callaway Chemical Company; Ciba-Geigy Corporation; CVC Specialty Chemicals; and Shell Chemical Company. The submission includes a final report entitled "Alkyl Glycidyl Ether: 13-Week Neurotoxicity Study in Fischer 344 Rats." This report was submitted pursuant to a TSCA section 4 enforceable testing consent agreement/order at 40 CFR 799.5000 and was received by EPA on February 13, 1998. This chemical is used as an epoxy resin additive and as a modifier for other epoxides in flooring and adhesives.

EPA has initiated its review and evaluation process for this data submission. At this time, the Agency is unable to provide any determination as to the completeness of the submission.

II. Public Record

EPA has established a public record for this TSCA section 4(d) receipt of data notice (docket number OPPTS-44647). This record includes a copy of the study reported in this notice. The record is available for inspection from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center (also known as the TSCA Public Docket Office), Rm. B-607 Northeast Mall, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Requests for documents should be sent in writing to: Environmental Protection Agency, TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center (7407), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460 or fax: (202) 260-5069 or e-mail: oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2603.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Test data.

Dated: March 20, 1998.

Charles M. Auer,

Director, Chemical Control Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

[FR Doc. 98-8424 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5985-3]

The General NPDES Permit for Seafood Processors Operating in Kodiak, AK (General NPDES Permit No. AK-G52-8000)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of final general NPDES permit.

SUMMARY: The Director, Office of Water, EPA Region 10, is issuing General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit no. AK-G52-8000 for owners and operators of shore-based seafood processing facilities and a by-product recovery facility in Kodiak, Alaska, pursuant to the provisions of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.* The final general NPDES permit authorizes discharges from facilities discharging through outfalls to St. Paul Harbor and Near Island Channel. The existing ten shore-based facilities and a by-product recovery facility are engaged in the processing of fresh, frozen, canned seafood, surimi, and fish meal/powder. Discharges authorized by the proposed permit include processing wastes, process disinfectants, sanitary wastewater and other wastewaters, including domestic wastewater, cooling water, boiler water, freshwater pressure relief water, refrigeration condensate, water used to transfer seafood to a facility, and live tank water. One facility discharges treated domestic and sanitary wastewater to St. Paul Harbor. The final permit authorizes discharges to waters of the United States in and contiguous to the State of Alaska.

The processing facilities are required to collect and route all seafood processing wastes and wastewater to a treatment system consisting of 1 mm screens or equivalent technology. All seafood solid wastes are collected and transported to the by-product recovery facility or are recovered through an in-house fish powder plant.

The final general permit for seafood processors in Kodiak, Alaska, will not authorize discharges of petroleum hydrocarbons, toxic pollutants, or other pollutants not specified in the permit.