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SOLVENTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

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PANEL OUTREACH MEETING HELD FOR EPA'S RULEMAKING ON METHYLENE CHLORIDE AND NMP

Following an EPA pre-panel outreach meeting held on March 16th with representatives selected to serve on a Small Business Advocacy Review Panel (SBAR) for EPA's rulemaking on paint strippers that contain methylene chloride or n-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP) under Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA held a full Panel meeting on June 15th. Panel members, which included several of HSIA's associate member companies, provided advice and recommendations to the Panel on options the EPA may consider that would minimize the rule's impact on small businesses. At the meeting, EPA indicated that it is considering restricting the sales of methylene chloride paint strippers in containers smaller than 55 gallon drums, which would effectively eliminate retail sales and create a financial burden for formulators. EPA also indicated that it is considering a 0.25 ppm exposure limit which is surprising in light of the OSHA PEL of 25 ppm which has been in effect since 1997. EPA has extended the comment period for SBAR participants at the June 15th meeting until July 1st. HSIA has liaised with each of the formulators regarding their follow-up comments.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMITTEE STAFF RESPONDS TO PROPOSED LABEL FOR METHYLENE CHLORIDE

HSIA received a response from CPSC staff approving proposed label language addressing acute as well as chronic risk for household products containing methylene chloride. As expected, the staff indicated that it is not recommending that the Commission issue a revised Statement of Interpretation and Enforcement Policy for household products containing methylene chloride, so HSIA will be petitioning the Commission requesting that it do so.

PANEL OUTREACH MEETING HELD FOR EPA'S RULEMAKING ON TRICHLOROETHYLENE IN VAPOR DEGREASING

EPA also held a Panel outreach meeting on June 15th with representatives selected to serve on a Small Business Advocacy Review Panel (SBAR) for EPA's TSCA Section 6 rulemaking on the use of trichloroethylene in vapor degreasing. At the meeting, small business representatives shared their knowledge of the current market for vapor degreasing and pointed out that the industry is already well regulated under an earlier NESHAP. Small business representatives also pointed out that the substitutes suggested for trichloroethylene in the review (including nPB) were not appropriate. EPA also extended the follow-up comment period for SBAR participants at this meeting until July 1st. Again, HSIA has liaised with our associate members regarding their follow-up comments.

EPA RESPONDS TO HSIA'S REQUESTS FOR CORRECTION OF TRICHLOROETHYLENE ASSESSMENTS

As reported in an earlier *Solvents News*, EPA turned down HSIA's Request for Correction of the trichloroethylene IRIS assessment based on its reliance on the Johnson *et al.* study. HSIA submitted a Request for Reconsideration, which was denied by EPA on February 26th. In addition, HSIA also submitted a Request for Correction of the TSCA Work Plan assessment of trichloroethylene, to which EPA had indicated that it would respond by June 16, 2016. EPA corresponded with HSIA last week and extended the time for a response until October 20, 2016/

VAPOR INTRUSION EXPECTED TO BE ADDED TO THE SUPERFUND HAZARD RANKING CRITERIA

After receiving mixed comments on EPA's proposed rule to add vapor intrusion as a contaminant pathway to the Superfund Hazard Ranking System, EPA is expected to issue a final rule in January 2017. While EPA stated they did not expect the rule to result in an increase in sites being added to the National Priority List, Massachusetts has already announced it will be taking another look at 200 trichloroethylene sites to determine if they need to be reopened.

