

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Sturcken, Charles
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2002 4:04 PM
To: Ward, Chris
Cc: Avaltroni, Robert
Subject: FW: ORD Study



FRN-7429-8.wpd



FACT_SHEET.PDF



R-243.wpd

Here are the EPA documents released this afternoon. Additionally, there was a press conf held outside of 290 Bway by Gerson and Environmental Action demanding that the clean-up deadline be extended.

-----Original Message-----

From: Brandt.Peter@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Brandt.Peter@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2002 3:56 PM
To: charless@dep.nyc.gov
Subject: ORD Study

Attached for your information is the Federal Register Notice published on Friday, December 27, that announces the availability of the draft health evaluation and final tox effects report.

(See attached file: FRN-7429-8.wpd)

Also attached is a fact sheet, media advisory.

(See attached file: FACT_SHEET.PDF) (See attached file: R-243.wpd)

The draft Exposure and Human Health Evaluation of Airborne Pollution from the World Trade Center Disaster is available at:
<http://www.epa.gov/ncea/wtc.htm>

The final Toxicological Effects of Fine Particulate Matter Derived from the Destruction of the World Trade Center report is available at:
<http://epa.gov/nheerl>

[Federal Register: December 27, 2002 (Volume 67, Number 249)] [Notices] [Page 79089-79090]
 From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov] [DOCID:fr27de02-90]

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7429-8]

Draft Exposure and Human Health Evaluation of Airborne Pollution From the World Trade Center Disaster and Final Toxicological Effects of Fine Particle Matter Derived From the Destruction of the World Trade Center

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a draft document for public review and comment, and notice of availability of a final document.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development (ORD) is announcing a 60-day public comment period for the external review draft (ERD) entitled, "Exposure and Human Health Evaluation of Airborne Pollution from the World Trade Center Disaster (EPA/600/P-02/002A, October 2002)." This draft document was prepared by ORD's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). ORD also is announcing the public availability of a final report entitled, "Toxicological Effects of Fine Particle Matter Derived from the Destruction of the World Trade Center (EPA/600/R-02/ 028, June 2002)," hereafter, rodent respiratory toxicological report. This final report was prepared by ORD's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL).

DATES: The 60-day public comment period on the ERD begins December 27, 2002, and ends February 25, 2003. Technical comments should be in writing and must be postmarked by February 25, 2003. The final rodent respiratory toxicological report is available today.

ADDRESSES: The primary distribution method for the ERD will be via ORD's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/wtc.htm>. This draft report, in PDF format, can be viewed and downloaded from the Internet for review and comment. In addition, a limited number of CD-ROM and paper copies of the ERD are available by contacting the Technical Information Staff, NCEA-W (8623D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460; telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050; email: nceadc.comment@epa.gov. Please provide your name, mailing address, and the title and EPA number of the requested publication.

The rodent respiratory toxicological report is also available via ORD's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/nheerl>. A limited number of paper copies are available from EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP). To obtain copies, please contact NSCEP by telephone: 1-800-490-9198 or 513-489-8190; facsimile: 513-489- 8695, by mail: P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-0419. Please provide your name and mailing address and the title and EPA number of the document requested.

COMMENT SUBMISSION: Comments on the ERD may be mailed to the Technical Information

Staff, NCEA-W (8623D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460; telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202- 565-0050. Comments should be in writing. Please submit one unbound original with pages numbered consecutively, and three copies of the comments. For attachments, provide an index, number pages consecutively with the comments, and submit an unbound original and three copies. Electronic comments may be emailed to: nceadc.comment@epa.gov.

Please note that all technical comments received in response to this notice will be placed in a public record. For that reason, commentors should not submit personal information (such as medical data or home address), Confidential Business Information, or information protected by copyright. Due to limited resources, acknowledgments will not be sent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the public comment period, contact the Technical Information Staff of the National Center for Environmental Assessment- Washington by telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050; email: nceadc.comment@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Immediately following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on New York City's World Trade Center, many federal agencies, including the EPA, were called upon to focus their technical and scientific expertise on the national emergency issues. EPA, other federal agencies, New York City, and New York State public health and environmental authorities focused on numerous air monitoring activities to better understand the ongoing human health impact of the disaster. Many EPA offices and programs quickly became involved with these activities, providing scientific, engineering, public health, and management expertise to help cope with the aftereffects of the collapse of the World Trade Center.

As part of these activities, a human health evaluation of exposure to air

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pollutants resulting from the World Trade Center disaster was initiated. The primary purpose and scope of this draft report were to evaluate the environmental levels of various air pollutants to which the public could potentially be exposed as a result of the collapse of the towers. The draft report evaluates the measured outdoor levels of various air pollutants to which the public potentially had been exposed. These data were evaluated in terms of available health benchmark concentrations and typical background concentrations for New York City or other urban areas. The draft evaluation concludes that, with the exception of those exposed immediately following the collapse and perhaps during the next few days, people in the surrounding community are not likely to suffer from serious long- or short-term health effects.

While the primary focus of EPA's draft evaluation is on outdoor levels of various air pollutants to which the public could potentially be exposed as a result of the collapse of the towers, some information on indoor and occupational exposures is summarized in EPA's draft report. The incursion of dust and other contaminants into residences and buildings is being addressed via a number of other studies initiated in conjunction with the plans by EPA and its federal, state, and city partners to clean up residences impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center.

The draft report also includes a discussion of rodent respiratory toxicology studies, conducted by EPA scientists, that exposed mice to fallen dust samples collected at or near Ground

Zero on September 12 and 13, 2001. The purpose of these studies was to evaluate the toxicity of fine particulate matter dust on the respiratory tract of mice and to compare well-studied particulate matter reference samples, ranging from essentially inert to quite toxic, to those collected at the World Trade Center site. These studies found that fine particles were dominated by calcium containing compounds derived from World Trade Center building materials, and that a high exposure to World Trade Center fine particulate matter could cause mild lung inflammation and airflow obstruction in mice. These findings suggest that a similarly high exposure in people could cause short-term respiratory effects such as inflammation and cough.

Further, it is important to note that while this ERD is undergoing public review and comment, a process of external independent expert scientific peer review also is underway. These review processes are the usual steps that EPA takes to ensure full and open participation by interested parties. These steps also help EPA identify areas where a draft document could be improved to strengthen both clarity and completeness of the draft. Comments from the public and from the expert peer reviewers will be used to improve the draft report before it is finalized.

Finally, EPA scientists, in collaboration with other federal and state environmental health professionals, as well as colleagues in academia and medical institutions, will continue to analyze available data on human exposures to environmental contaminants resulting from the World Trade Center disaster. This continuing work will help us to better understand the potential human health impacts.

Dated: December 20, 2002.

Paul Gilman,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 02-32600 Filed 12-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P



FACT SHEET: RELEASE OF REPORTS RELATED TO THE WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER

Exposure and Human Health Evaluation of Airborne Pollution from the
World Trade Center Disaster (DRAFT)

Toxicological Effects of Fine Particulate Matter Derived from the
Destruction of the World Trade Center (FINAL)

ACTIONS:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed a draft report entitled, "Exposure and Human Health Evaluation of Airborne Pollution from the World Trade Center Disaster," and is soliciting comments from the public on this draft report during a 60-day comment period. In addition, the EPA has completed a final report, entitled "Toxicological Effects of Fine Particulate Matter Derived from the Destruction of the World Trade Center." Both of these documents are available to the public. A *Federal Register* notice, published December 27, 2002, announced: 1) the public availability of the external review draft and the start of the comment period; and 2) the availability of the final rodent respiratory studies report.

SUMMARY:

EPA has released for public review and comment a draft evaluation of exposure and human health impacts of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (WTC). The draft evaluation concludes that, with the exception of those exposed immediately following the collapse and perhaps during the next few days, people in the surrounding community are not likely to suffer from serious long or short term health effects. The draft report evaluates the measured outdoor levels of various air pollutants to which the public had been potentially exposed as a result of the collapse of the WTC. These data were evaluated in terms of available health benchmark concentrations and typical background concentrations for New York City or other urban areas. The draft report focuses on: particulate matter (PM), metals (lead, chromium and nickel compounds), polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxin-like compounds, asbestos, and volatile organic compounds.

The draft report includes a discussion of rodent respiratory toxicology studies, conducted by EPA scientists, that found that high doses of WTC dust could cause mild respiratory effects in mice. These studies exposed mice to fallen dust samples collected at or near the WTC site on September 12 and 13, 2001. The report, "Toxicological Effects of Fine Particulate Matter Derived from the Destruction of the World Trade Center," summarizes these studies. The purpose of these studies was to evaluate the toxicity of fine PM on the respiratory tract of mice and to compare well-studied PM reference samples, ranging from essentially inert to quite toxic, to those collected at the WTC site. These studies found that fine particles were mostly dominated by calcium containing compounds derived from WTC building materials and that a high dose of WTC fine PM could cause mild lung inflammation and air flow obstruction in mice. These findings suggest that a similarly high dose in people could cause short-term respiratory effects such as inflammation and cough. These studies have been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, and are expected to be published shortly.

It is important to note that the draft human health evaluation is undergoing public review, as well as external independent expert scientific peer review. These review processes are usual steps that the Agency takes to

insure full and open participation by interested parties. These steps also help the Agency to identify areas where a draft document could be improved to strengthen both clarity and completeness of the draft. Comments from the public and from the expert peer review will be used to improve the draft report before it is finalized.

BACKGROUND:

EPA responded immediately to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the WTC. The Agency, along with many other federal, state and local agencies, was called upon to bring its technical and scientific expertise to the national emergency. EPA, other federal agencies, and New York City and New York State public health and environmental authorities initiated numerous air monitoring activities to better understand the ongoing impact of emissions from that disaster. Many EPA offices and programs quickly became involved with these activities, providing scientific, engineering, public health, and management expertise to help cope with the after effects of the collapse of the WTC. EPA Region 2, which includes the New York City metropolitan area in New York and New Jersey, is the Agency's lead office on these activities, including the important and complicated task of community outreach and communication. As part of these activities, Region 2 requested that ORD conduct a human health evaluation of exposure to air pollutants resulting from the WTC disaster.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:

Draft Human Health Evaluation: The primary method for document availability will be via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/wtc.htm>. A limited number of CDs and paper copies are available from: Technical Information Staff (8623D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Center for Environmental Assessment, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; Telephone: 202-564-3261; Facsimile: 202-565-0050; Email: nceadc.comment@epa.gov.

Final Rodent Respiratory Toxicology Report: The primary method for document availability will be via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/nheerl>. A limited number of paper copies will be available from EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) in the near future. To obtain copies, please contact NSCEP by telephone (1-800-490-9198 or 513-489-8190), by facsimile (513-489-8695), or by mail (P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-0419). Please provide your name and mailing address and the title and EPA number of the document requested (*Toxicological Effects of Fine Particulate Matter Derived from the Destruction of the World Trade Center*. EPA/600/R-02/028, June 2002).

CONTACTS:

Draft Human Health Evaluation: Linda Tuxen, NCEA Communications, National Center for Environmental Assessment (8601D) Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC; Tel: 202-564-3332; Email: tuxen.linda@epa.gov

Final Rodent Respiratory Toxicology Report: Debbie Janes, Public Affairs, Office of Research and Development (B34303), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC; Tel: 919-541-4577; Email: janes.deborah@epa.gov