

Abstract: In order to ensure compliance with these standards, adequate recordkeeping is necessary. In the absence of such information, enforcement personnel would be unable to determine whether the standards are being met on a continuous basis, as required by the Clean Air Act. Generally, this information will be readily available because it is needed for plant records. As a result, there should be no additional burden from these requirements.

The format of the rule is that of an equipment standard. A performance test is not required because conducting a performance test is not feasible for floating roofs. Floating roofs are subject to visual inspections and periodic measurements. Flares must meet the General Provisions at section 60.18(f). The owner/operator must notify the date of construction or reconstruction no later than 30 days after such date, notify 60 days prior to a physical or operational change to an existing facility which may increase emissions, record occurrences of any start-up, shutdown or malfunction, record gap measurements: primary seals every five years, secondary seals every year, report within 60 days if seal gap measurements exceed regulatory limits (§ 60.112a), provide notice 30 days prior to seal gap measurement, provide information on vapor recovery system including emissions data, operations design and maintenance plan and record whenever the liquid is changed, type of petroleum liquid, period of storage and maximum true vapor.

Information generated by notifications, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements is used by the Agency to ensure that facilities affected by the NSPS continue to operate the control equipment used to achieve compliance. Notification of construction and startup indicates to enforcement personnel when a new affected facility has been constructed and therefore is subject to the standards. If the information were not collected, the Agency would have no means for ensuring that compliance with the NSPS is achieved and maintained by the new, modified, or reconstructed sources subject to the regulation. Under these circumstances, an owner or operator could elect to reduce operating expenses by not installing, maintaining, or otherwise operating the control technology required by the standards. In the absence of the recordkeeping requirements, the standards could be enforced only through continuous onsite inspection by regulatory agency personnel. Consequently, not collecting the information results in (1) greatly

increased resource requirements for enforcement agencies or (2) the inability to enforce the standards.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR Part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15. The **Federal Register** Notice required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on 12/02/97 (62 FR 63703); zero comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 115 hours per response. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information. Respondents/Affected Entities: Owners of storage vessels for petroleum liquids.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 183.

Frequency of Response: 1.
Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 20,954 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: 0

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1050.06 and OMB Control No. 2060-0121 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, and
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs,
Office of Management and Budget,
Attention: Desk Officer for EPA 725
17th Street, NW,

Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5989-5]

Risk Assessment Forum Report on Assessment of Thyroid Follicular Cell Tumors

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Risk Assessment Forum report.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today announcing the availability of an EPA Risk Assessment Forum report entitled, Assessment of Thyroid Follicular Cell Tumors (hereafter "Forum Report"). The Forum Report presents science policy guidance that describes the procedures the Agency will use in the evaluation of potential human cancer hazard and dose-response assessments from chemicals that are animal thyroid carcinogens. The Forum Report describes when, under clearly specified conditions, chemical carcinogenesis in thyroid follicular cells can be analyzed as a nonlinear phenomenon, rather than assuming low dose linearity as EPA customarily does for carcinogenic compounds. Four hypothetical case studies are summarized which illustrate how to evaluate toxicological data and make hazard and dose-response estimation choices. The procedures and considerations developed in the Forum Report embody current scientific knowledge of thyroid carcinogenesis and evolving science policy. Should significant new information become available, the Agency will update its guidance accordingly.

ADDRESSES: An electronic version of the Forum Report is accessible from EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment Internet home page at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>. Interested parties can obtain a single copy of the report by contacting ORD Publications, Technology Transfer and Support Division, National Risk Management Research Laboratory, Cincinnati, Ohio by calling 513-569-7562, or by sending facsimile to 513-569-7566. Please provide your name and mailing address, and request the document by title and the EPA document number (EPA/630/R-97/002) when ordering. There will be

a limited number of paper copies available from the above source. Requests will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis as print copies become available. After the supply is exhausted, copies of the report can be purchased by contacting the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), by calling 703-487-4650, or by sending a facsimile to 703-321-8547.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William P. Wood, Risk Assessment Forum (8601-D), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC, 20460, telephone (202) 564-3361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1986 EPA published cancer risk assessment guidelines (51 FR 33996) and recently proposed revisions to these guidelines (61 FR 17960). From time to time scientific developments prompt the Agency to reexamine its risk assessment guidance (e.g., the assessment of male rat kidney tumors, 57 FR 8123). The National Research Council (NRC) in their 1994 report *Science and Judgment in Risk Assessment* emphasized that well designed guidelines should permit acceptance of new evidence that differs from what was previously perceived as the general case, when scientifically justifiable. In keeping with this principle, the NRC recommended that EPA be more precise in describing the kind and strength of evidence that it will require to depart from a default option and which procedures will be applied in such situations. That is the case with the review of some chemicals that have produced thyroid follicular cell tumors in experimental animals.

EPA's Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment provide direction for performing hazard and dose-response assessments for carcinogenic substances. The guidelines generally operate on the premise that findings of chemically induced cancer in laboratory animals signal potential hazards in humans. Likewise, for dose-response analyses, the guidelines first call for use of the most biologically appropriate means for dose extrapolation. In the absence of such knowledge, assessors are directed toward the use of a default science policy position, a low-dose linear procedure.

Thyroid gland follicular cell tumors are fairly common in chronic studies of chemicals in rodents. Experimental evidence indicates that the mode of action for these rodent thyroid tumors involves (a) changes in the DNA of thyroid cells with the generation of mutations, (b) disruption of thyroid-pituitary functioning, or (c) a combination of the two. The only verified cause of human thyroid cancer

is ionizing radiation, a mutagenic insult to which children are more sensitive than adults.

In 1988, the Agency organized a review of the existing science on thyroid follicular cell carcinogenesis and a draft science policy position covering the evaluation of chemicals that have induced thyroid tumors in experimental animals (53 FR 20685). The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) approved the science review and tentatively embraced the policy position that in clearly specified circumstances some thyroid tumors could be assessed using nonlinear considerations. However, they recommended that the Agency (a) articulate more clearly the steps that lead to the use of nonlinear considerations in assessments and (b) illustrate, using case studies, the ways EPA would evaluate data on animal thyroid carcinogens and make projections of anticipated human risk from chemicals that are animal thyroid carcinogens. The Agency revised the Forum Report accordingly, incorporating an update of the scientific literature, and on July 19, 1996 the SAB reviewed and approved the revised Forum Report (61 FR 32796).

The scientific analysis and science policy statement in this Forum Report apply only to tumors involving follicular cells of the thyroid gland. The Forum Report does not analyze or address comparable issues for other endocrine organs.

Dated: March 18, 1998.

William H. Farland,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 98-8527 Filed 3-31-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5989-6]

Palmerton Zinc Superfund Site De Minimis Settlement; Proposed Administrative Settlement Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to enter into *de minimis* settlements pursuant to Section 122(g)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, (CERCLA) 42 U.S.C.

9622(g)(4). The proposed settlements are intended to resolve the potential liability under CERCLA of homeowners of 27 residences as *de minimis* parties for response costs incurred by the United States Environmental Protection Agency at the Palmerton Zinc Superfund Site, Carbon County, Pennsylvania.

DATES: Comments must be provided on or before May 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to the Docket Clerk, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, and should refer to: In Re: Palmerton Zinc Superfund Site, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, U.S. EPA Docket Nos. III-97-11-DC, III-97-12-DC, III-97-13-DC, III-97-14-DC, III-97-17-DC, III-97-18-DC, III-97-19-DC, III-97-24-DC, III-97-26-DC, III-97-28-DC, III-97-30-DC, III-97-32-DC, III-97-40-DC, III-97-42-DC, III-97-45-DC, III-97-47-DC, III-97-49-DC, III-97-50-DC, III-97-52-DC, III-97-53-DC, III-97-54-DC, III-97-55-DC, III-97-56-DC, III-97-58-DC, III-97-64-DC, III-97-66-DC, and III-97-69-DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Nadolski (3RC32), Office of Regional Counsel, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, (215) 566-2673.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Notice of De Minimis Settlement

In accordance with Section 122(i)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(i)(1), notice is hereby given of proposed administrative settlements concerning the Palmerton Zinc Site in Carbon County, Pennsylvania. The administrative settlements were signed by the Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, on April 11, 1997, and are subject to review by the public pursuant to this Notice. The agreements were also subject to the approval of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice or her designee.

The 27 parties agree to allow complete access to their properties by EPA and its representatives and to cooperate and not to interfere with the activities of EPA or its representatives during an ongoing response action to remove lead, cadmium and zinc contamination from their properties in Palmerton, Pennsylvania in exchange for receiving a covenant not to sue pursuant to Section 122(g) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(g), and contribution protection pursuant to Section 113(f) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9613(f). The