Greenlist BULLETIN

TURI
TOXICS USE REDUCTION INSTITUTE
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This is the weekly bulletin of the TURI Library at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Greenlist Bulletin provides previews of recent publications and websites relevant to reducing the use of toxic chemicals by industries, businesses, communities, individuals and government. You are welcome to send a message to mary@turi.org if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

Study: Consumer Product Safety Testing Misses Cancer Risks From Chemical Mixtures

Source: Environmental Working Group, June 4, 2018
Author: Olga Naidenko

Mixtures of chemicals commonly found in consumer products are more likely to increase breast cancer risk than the same chemicals individually, according to a new analysis. But safety tests by government regulators don't routinely evaluate the combined effects of multiple chemical exposures.

For a study published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Toxicological Sciences*, Shanaz Dairkee Ph.D., and her colleagues from the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute looked at how the combination of three widely used chemicals can cause healthy breast cells to behave more like cancer cells.

They tested the aggregate effect of BPA, a plastics additive; methyl paraben, a preservative in cosmetics and body care products; and PFOA, a non-stick chemical formerly used to make Teflon. BPA, PFOA, and methyl paraben are all found in the bodies of Americans, due to their presence in consumer products and drinking water.

Read more...

See article in *Toxicological Sciences*, "A Ternary Mixture of Common Chemicals Perturbs Benign Human Breast Epithelial Cells More Than the Same Chemicals Do Individually".

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Addition of NPEs Category to TRI List Final Rule

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, June 7, 2018

On June 7, 2018, EPA finalized a rule that adds a category of 13 specific nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) list of reportable chemicals. NPEs are nonionic surfactants used in adhesives, wetting agents, emulsifiers, stabilizers, dispersants, defoamers, cleaners, paints, and coatings.

The final rule is effective for the 2019 TRI reporting year with the first forms due July 1, 2020.

EPA finalized this rule because we have determined that longer-chain NPEs can break down in the environment to short-chain NPEs and nonylphenol, both of which are highly toxic to aquatic organisms. For this reason, EPA has determined that NPEs meet the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) section 313(d)(2)(C) toxicity listing criteria.

Read more...

See the prepublication version of the final rule to add a category of 13 specific nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) list of reportable chemicals.

Safer Chemistry Innovation in the Textile and Apparel Industry

Source: Safer Made, June, 2018

Authors: Marty Mulvihill and Adrian Horotan

In the next ten years, the textile and apparel industry will adopt new materials that deliver unprecedented performance and eliminate harmful chemicals from products and manufacturing processes, emerging as a circular and regenerative sector of the economy.

With support from Fashion for Good, we are releasing the "Safer Chemistry Innovation in the Textile and Apparel Industry" report in which we evaluate the role various harmful chemicals have in the production of textiles and apparel and identify five key Innovation Areas. We offer insights to accelerate the adoption of new safer technologies, and highlight the work of over a hundred young innovative companies.

Read more...

See full report here.

Suspect Screening and Regulatory Databases: A Powerful Combination To Identify Emerging Micropollutants

Source: *Environmental Science & Technology*, May 21 2018

Authors: Pablo Gago-Ferrero, Agnes Krettek, Stellan Fischer, Karin Wiberg, and Lutz Ahrens

This study demonstrates that regulatory databases combined with the latest advances in high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) can be efficiently used to prioritize and identify new, potentially hazardous pollutants being discharged into the aquatic environment. Of the approximately 23,000 chemicals registered in the database of the National Swedish Product Register, 160 potential organic micropollutants were prioritized through quantitative knowledge of market availability, quantity used, extent of use on the market, and predicted compartment-specific environmental exposure during usage. Advanced liquid chromatography (LC)-HRMS-based suspect screening strategies were used to search for the selected compounds

in 24 h composite samples collected from the effluent of three major wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in Sweden. In total, 36 tentative identifications were successfully achieved, mostly for substances not previously considered by environmental scientists. Of these substances, 23 were further confirmed with reference standards, showing the efficiency of combining a systematic prioritization strategy based on a regulatory database and a suspect-screening approach. These findings show that close collaboration between scientists and regulatory authorities is a promising way forward for enhancing identification rates of emerging pollutants and expanding knowledge on the occurrence of potentially hazardous substances in the environment.

Read more...

EPA 'narrowing' scope of first ten TSCA risk evaluations

Source: *Chemical Watch*, June 7, 2018
Author: Julie Miller

The US EPA has made it clear it does not intend to evaluate exposure routes it considers adequately regulated under other laws. This narrows the scope of the assessments of the first ten substances subject to risk evaluation under the amended TSCA.

Problem formulation documents, released on 1 June, identify the 'conditions of use' the agency plans to evaluate and serve as an interim step toward final risk evaluations, which must be completed by December 2019.

As was the case in the preliminary 'scoping documents', published last June, the EPA plans to exclude 'legacy' uses of chemicals from its risk evaluations. It has since identified additional uses that are no longer ongoing, which also will be set aside.

Which 'conditions of use' the agency considers in its risk evaluations remains heavily disputed. A coalition of NGOs is suing to challenge the Trump administration's interpretation that it has the discretion not to evaluate all of a substance's conditions of use.

Read more...

See from *The New York Times*, "The Chemical Industry Scores a Big Win at the E.P.A.".

See from the U.S. EPA, "The docket numbers, problem formulations, scope documents and supplemental documents for the 10 chemical substances that EPA initiated the risk evaluation process for in December 2016 can be found" on this page (by substance).

Also see rule document from U.S. EPA, "Procedures for Prioritization of Chemicals for Risk Evaluation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act".

See from Environmental Defense Fund, "Pruitt EPA Illegally and Dramatically Undermines Authority to Limit Dangerous Chemicals under Reformed Chemical Safety Law", and "EPA seriously underestimates its costs under TSCA and lowballs industry fees as a result".

TURI's Note: See our page on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

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