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WV TAP

WEST VIRGINIA TESTING ASSESSMENT PROJECT



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DATE: April 1, 2014

SUBJECT: WV TAP Health Effects Panel Releases Preliminary Results

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Charleston, WV, April 1, 2014—On Tuesday, April 1 the WV TAP team Health Effects Expert Panel presented their preliminary findings and provided the public an opportunity to ask questions about their results. The panel deliberated on March 31 regarding the screening levels established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The panel was organized by Ms. Jacqueline Patterson, Vice-President of TERA, and Ms. Patricia Nance Science Outreach and Initiatives Leader. The WV TAP Health Effects Expert Panel included international and US state experts. The panel was chaired by Dr. Michael Dourson, President of TERA. Panel members included Dr. James Jacobus, Minnesota Department of Health; Dr. Stephen Roberts, University of Florida; Dr. Paul Rumsby, Water Research Center (WRc) plc, and Dr. Shai Ezra, the Israel National Water Company Ltd. Mekorot.

The panel addressed five charge questions as well as several questions submitted by the public to the WV TAP project team. The expert panel reached the following preliminary findings:

The panel concluded that the CDC used traditional methods and reasonable assumptions to develop their screening levels.

The WV TAP Health Effects Expert Panel agreed with the CDC on the choice of both key toxicity data and safety factors for MCHM, but not for PPH. The panel chose to calculate values based on the most highly exposed population (that is, formula-fed infants).

The safe levels of exposure developed by the panel consider the following exposures: (1) Direct ingestion of water, including by formula-fed infants, (2) Inhalation from showering and cooking, (3) Skin exposure to water uses in the house, and (4) Incidental exposures, including brushing

teeth, watering plants. These levels protect all populations, including infants, children, and pregnant women.

The panel developed safe levels of exposure that are protective for all populations. These levels are:

- 120 ppb for MCHM: The panel's MCHM safe exposure level was less than CDC's 1,000 ppb value but greater than the 10 ppb State of West Virginia's inter-agency level.
- 850 ppb for PPH: The panel's PPH safe exposure level was less than CDC's 1,200 ppb value.
- 250 ppb for DiPPH: The CDC did not set a DiPPH screening level.

Five research needs were identified by the panel:

1. Determine the potential of MCHM to cause skin irritation,
2. Conduct toxicology studies for MCHM in pregnant animals,
3. Organize all available data on exposures and health effects (from immediately following the spill) to facilitate the estimation of initial conditions,
4. Pending results of research needs #2 and #3, consider the need for long-term health effects study, and
5. Determine chemical fate and transport within the treatment plant and the water distribution system.