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Contaminant-related Activities in Support of Client Agencies in the Department of the Interior

Description:

The Interagency Testing Committee (ITC) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) was enacted in 1976 as an independent advisory group to the Administrator of the U.S. EPA. The ITC prioritizes and coordinates the testing of TSCA-regulable chemicals, recommends chemicals for testing to the Administrator in a Priority Testing List (PTL), publishes semi-annual reports in the Federal Register, reviews toxicological data submissions from chemical manufacturers, and develops dossiers on chemicals of concern. By law this action requires that all manufacturers and importers of these chemicals submit production and exposure data, and results of health and safety testing for our review. Pending review of these data, additional testing of the chemicals may be designated by the ITC. The objective of our involvement in this activity is to generate ecotoxicological data that will be of value to management of natural resources under the stewardship of the Department of the Interior.

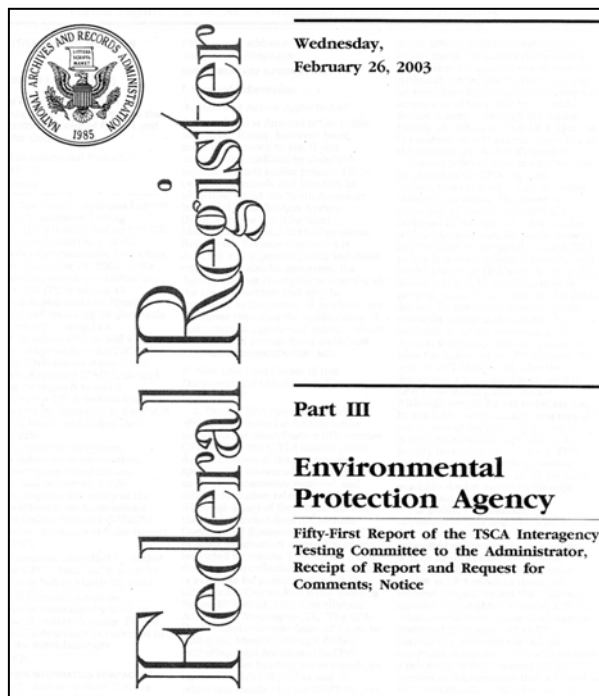
Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods, as established by Public Law 106-545 is responsible for the evaluation of toxicological testing methods which reduce dependency on animal subjects for the protection of human health and the environment. The objective of our involvement is to contribute an ecological perspective to this statutory committee.

Progress to Date:

Data needs of the Department of Interior relating to persistent toxicants were brought to the attention of the Interagency Testing Committee. In reports to the Administrator of the EPA, the ITC described ongoing activities on the identification of chemicals with production or importation volumes in excess of 10,000 pounds that are predicted to bioconcentrate,

persist and cause ecological and human health effects. This is part of a national and international effort to identify data gaps for persistent bioaccumulative toxicants.

The Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods will continue its evaluations of in vitro test methods for detecting endocrine disruptors and dermal irritants, and novel approaches for estimating acute toxicity.



Management Implications:

These activities promote the generation of ecotoxicological data and sound testing methods that will assist the Department of the Interior in managing its trust resources and lands.