



July 17, 2015

Toxicology Division, MC 168
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Submitted Via Email: tox@tceq.texas.gov

RE: Request for Public Comment on the 2015 Revision of the TCEQ Guidelines to Develop Toxicity Factors

Dear Sir or Madam:

The American Chemistry Council's Center for Advancing Risk Assessment Science and Policy (ARASP), appreciates this additional opportunity to provide comments in response to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) request for public comment on the 2015 revision of the Guidelines to Develop Toxicity Factors (Guidelines). ARASP is a coalition of twenty-two independent groups that promotes the development and application of up-to-date scientific methods for conducting chemical assessments. Previously, ARASP submitted comments on the 2012 revision to the Guidelines which focused on the: use of odor as a basis for an effect screening level; use of the shape of the dose-response curve in the selection of point of departures (POD); and consideration of uncertainty associated with the derivation of the effect levels.

We recognize the importance of developing objective and transparent guidelines for the generation of toxicity values. ARASP commends the TCEQ for seeking public engagement, undergoing considerable peer review and revising the Guidelines to reflect the scientific input received to strengthen the Guidelines. The revised Guidelines provide expanded discussion on: how the literature for identification of toxicity studies is considered and applied in the derivation of values; and it also presents an informative discussion on study quality considerations, the utilization of mode of action (MOA) and the key questions that should be evaluated when utilizing the available data to make decisions regarding toxicity. ARASP appreciates the TCEQ's review of our 2012 comments and the incorporation of our suggested edits to the acronyms lists, Table 5-4, as well as providing additional clarification on animal-to-human inhalation dosimetry, route-to-route extrapolation and selection of PODs in development of 24-h reference values.

The TCEQ has also recognized the importance of providing clarification regarding its use of odor as the basis to develop effect screening levels (ESLs) by releasing an additional document for public comment focused on this issue. While TCEQ has indicated that the intent of the odor-based value is to prevent odor nuisance conditions, ARASP has previously noted there is considerable variability and uncertainty in the use of odor for ESL development. We continue to



recommend that language be included in the current guidelines on the uncertainty with the odor based screening levels and we have also provided separate public comments on the TCEQ position paper titled: Approaches to Derive Odor-Based Values (Proposed April 2015).

ARASP thanks TCEQ for the opportunity to review the revised guidelines prior to them being made final. We would also recommend that on future revisions to TCEQ Guidelines that the agency provide a summary response to the comments received on the Guidelines in addition to any record of change document.

Should you have any questions please contact me by phone at 202-249-6707 or via email at kimberly_white@americanchemistry.com.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Wise White, PhD
American Chemistry Council (ACC)
Senior Director
Chemical Products & Technology Division

On Behalf of ARASP

ARASP members:

Acrylonitrile Group
American Cleaning Institute
American Composite Manufacturers Association
American Forest and Paper Association
American Petroleum Institute
ACC Chlorine Chemistry Division
ACC Ethylene Oxide Panel
ACC Formaldehyde Panel
ACC Hexavalent Chromium Panel
ACC High Phthalates Panel
ACC Hydrocarbon Solvents Panel
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