

November 4, 2003

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REMOVE ETHYLENE GLYCOL MONOBUTYL ETHER FROM THE CLEAN AIR ACT LIST OF HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS

ACTION

- EPA has reviewed a petition to delist EGBE, and has concluded that legal criteria have been met for removing this compound from the list of 188 toxic air pollutants. As a result, we have proposed to delist EGBE.
- The Clean Air Act allows any person to petition EPA to ask that the Agency either remove a listed air toxic, or add another compound to the list.
- In order for EPA to remove a listed air toxic, the petitioner first must demonstrate that there are adequate data to determine that emissions, outdoor concentrations, bioaccumulation, or atmospheric deposition of the substance may not *reasonably be anticipated* to damage human health or the environment.
- We conducted two reviews before proposing to delist EGBE:
 - The first review was a completeness review, to determine whether there is sufficient information on which to base a decision. We concluded that the information was complete in 1999;
 - The second review (since 1999) was a technical review, to evaluate the merits of the petition. During the technical review, EPA considers both information contained in the petition and information received from the public to determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of the Clean Air Act.
- During the technical review, EPA looked at EGBE to determine its potential to cause cancer in humans. We concluded that does not cause cancer in humans at the levels present in the air.
- Based on this information, EPA has concluded the the legal criteria have been met for removing EGBE from the Clean Air Act list of toxic air pollutants.
- If new information on the health and environmental impacts of EGBE becomes available before this rule is finalized, EPA will carefully review and consider it before making our final decision on the petition to remove EGBE from the Clean Air Act list of toxic air pollutants.
- EPA will take public comment for 60 days following Federal Register publication of the

proposed rule. The Agency will hold a public hearing on the proposal if it receives requests within *15 days* of publication.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate 188 compounds that are listed as toxic air pollutants.
- The law allows EPA to consider petitions to modify the list, by adding or removing substances. To date, EPA has removed one pollutant, caprolactam (1996) from the air toxics list.
- The Agency proposed to delist methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) from the air toxics list in May of 2003. We are currently evaluating public comment on this action, and will make a final determination whether to delist MEK in early 2004.
- Petitioners seeking to remove a substance must demonstrate that there are adequate data to determine that emissions, outdoor concentrations, bioaccumulation, or atmospheric deposition of the substance may not reasonably be anticipated to damage human health or the environment.
- Once EPA receives a petition, it conducts two reviews: a completeness review, to determine whether there is sufficient information on which to base a decision; and a technical review, to evaluate the merits of the petition.
- During the technical review, EPA considers both information contained in the petition and information received from the public to determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Once that comprehensive review is complete, EPA decides whether to propose removing the substance from the air toxics list.
- EPA will base its final decision on whether to delist EGBE based on the public comments received on this proposal and any additional information that becomes available now and promulgation of the final rule.
- The American Chemistry Council submitted its original petition in August, 1997 and provided additional materials in December, 1998. In August 1999, EPA published a Federal Register notice announcing that the petition was complete and requesting technical information on the toxicity and health effects of EGBE. EPA received eight comments in response to this announcement. All comments made general statements in support of EPA delisting EGBE. EPA has been conducting the technical review since that time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Copies of the original petition and its supporting information are available for public inspection and copying at the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Comments should be mailed to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102T), attention docket number A-99-24, or electronic docket number OAR-2003-0188 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- For further information including the proposed rule and the Federal Register notice once published, go to EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.