

**Administrator Wheeler Talking Points**  
**EPA State of the Science on Using New Approach Methods for**  
**Chemical Safety Testing Conference**  
**October 19-20, 2020**

- \* Good morning and welcome to EPA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual State of the Science Conference on Using New Approach Methods (NAMs) for Chemical Safety Testing.
- \* Regretfully, I cannot participate this year in person, but want to congratulate everyone for the great strides we've made in just under a year.
- \* Last December, over 500 gathered to discuss the Agency's use of animal testing and worked to move forward my vision of one day eliminating use of animals for testing.
- \* We have over 900 participants registered to participate today from the US and around the world.
- \* We share a common interest in using new approach methods to improve how chemicals are tested.
- \* We are meeting the goals set forth in my 2019 memo to eliminate the use of mammals in chemical testing by 2035.
- \* Here are some examples of steps we've taken to reduce, replace, and refine animal testing requirements.
  - \* We are required under TSCA Section 4 to regularly maintain and update a list of New Approach Methods and we will release a draft proposal for public comment for selecting future additions to the list by the end of this year.

- \* We've launched an EPA NAM website – a one-stop shop for getting updates on our efforts to reduce the use of animal testing.
- \* I encourage everyone to check the site for updates on our progress at: [Epa.gov/nam](http://Epa.gov/nam)
- \* In February, we issued guidance waiving the testing of pesticides on birds when the information yielded is unnecessary to support a decision.
- \* In June, we:
  - \* released the EPA New Approach Methods Work Plan outlining the objectives, strategies, and deliverables that are important guideposts in reaching the 2035 goal;
  - \* held a public webinar to start engaging stakeholders in the process; and
  - \* convened a meeting of the Science Advisory Board to give us advice on using NAMs to help re-invent the cancer bioassay.
- \* In July, we released guidance that reduces unnecessary testing on fish in the pesticide registration process.
- \* And two weeks ago, we released new guidance expanding the opportunity for waivers for dermal toxicity studies for pesticides.

- \* We recognize that ambitious goals cannot be achieved without contributions from our partners and stakeholders. I invite you to engage the Agency on your ideas to help us meet our goal.
- \* Over the next two days, you will hear presentations from EPA as well as other stakeholders on the state of the science in new approach methods.
- \* The ideas within these presentations will continue to chart the path forward for using NAMs to test chemicals and for EPA to aggressively pursue a reduction in animal testing.
- \* Let me close by saying that although we will continue to face challenges, I'm optimistic that we have the talent and creativity to develop NAMs for chemical testing that achieve the goals we have set, while continuing to protect public health and the environment.
- \* I appreciate your participation in this virtual conference, and I hope you and your families are safe and well.
- \* Good luck.