obtained after that date by contacting NICEATM (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

Attendance and Registration

This public meeting will take place February 6, 2007, at the NIH Campus, Natcher Conference Center, Bethesda, MD (a map of the NIH campus and other visitor information are available at *http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm*). The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 5 p.m. Persons needing special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodation in order to attend, should contact 919–541–2475 (voice), 919–541–4644 TTY (text telephone), through the Federal TTY Relay System at 800–877–8339, or by e-mail to *niehsoeeo@niehs.nih.gov*. Requests should be made at least seven business days in advance of the event.

Availability of the BRD and Draft ICCVAM Recommendations

NICEATM prepared a BRD on five *in vitro* pyrogenicity test methods that describes the current validation status of the in vitro test methods and contains all of the data and analyses supporting this validation status. The draft BRDs, draft ICCVAM test method recommendations, draft test method protocols, and draft test method performance standards are available from the ICCVAM/NICETAM Web site (*http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov*) or by contacting NICEATM (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

Request for Comments

NICEATM invites the submission of written comments on the BRDs, draft ICCVAM test method recommendations, draft test method protocols, and draft test method performance standards. When submitting written comments, it is important to refer to this **Federal Register** notice and include appropriate contact information (name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail, and sponsoring organization, if applicable). Written comments should be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail to Dr. William Stokes, Director of NICEATM, at the address listed above, not later than January 26, 2007. All comments received will be placed on the ICCVAM/NICEATM Web site (*http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov*), sent to the panel and ICCVAM agency representatives, and made available at the meeting.

This meeting is open to the public and time will be provided for the presentation of public oral comments at designated times during the peer review. Members of the public who wish to present oral statements at the meeting (one speaker per organization) should contact NICEATM (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above) no later than January 26, 2007. Speakers will be assigned on a consecutive basis and up to seven minutes will be allotted per speaker. Persons registering to make comments are asked to provide NICEATM a written copy of their statement by January 26, 2007, so that copies can be distributed to the panel prior to the meeting or if this is not possible to bring 40 copies to the meeting. Written statements can supplement and expand the oral presentation. Each speaker is asked to provide contact information (name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail, and sponsoring organization, if applicable) when registering to make oral comments.

Summary minutes and the panel's final report will be available following the meeting on the ICCVAM/NICEATM Web site (*http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov*). ICCVAM will consider the panel's conclusions and recommendations and any public comments received in finalizing their test method recommendations and performance standards for these methods.

Background Information on ICCVAM and NICEATM

ICCVAM is an interagency committee composed of representatives from 15 Federal regulatory and research agencies that use or generate toxicological information. ICCVAM conducts technical evaluations of new, revised, and alternative methods with regulatory applicability and promotes the scientific validation and regulatory acceptance of toxicological test methods that more accurately assess the safety and hazards of chemicals and products and that refine, reduce, and replace animal use. The ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 285l–3, available at *http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/about/PL106545.htm*) establishes ICCVAM as a permanent interagency committee of the NIEHS under the NICEATM. NICEATM administers ICCVAM and provides scientific and operational support for ICCVAM-related activities. NICEATM and ICCVAM work collaboratively to evaluate new and improved test methods applicable to the needs of federal agencies. Additional information about ICCVAM and NICEATM can be found at the following Web site: *http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov*.

Dated: November 27, 2006.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program.

[FR Doc. E6–21038 Filed 12–11–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Toxicology Program (NTP); Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR); Availability of the Draft Expert Panel Report on Bisphenol A and Request for Public Comment on the Draft Report; Announcement of the Bisphenol A Expert Panel Meeting

AGENCY: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); National Institutes of Health (NIH).

ACTION: Announcement of a meeting and request public comment.

SUMMARY: The CERHR announces the availability of the draft expert panel report for bisphenol A on December 15, 2006, from the CERHR Web site (*http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov*) or in printed text from CERHR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** below). The CERHR invites the submission of public comments on sections 1–4 of the draft expert panel report (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below). The expert panel will meet on March 5–7, 2007, at the Radisson Hotel Old Town in Alexandria, Virginia to review and revise the draft expert panel report and reach conclusions regarding whether exposure to bisphenol A is a hazard to human development or reproduction. The expert panel will also identify data gaps and research needs. CERHR expert panel meetings are open to the public with time scheduled for oral public comment. Attendance is limited only by the available meeting room space. Following the expert panel meeting and completion of the expert panel report, the CERHR will post the final report on its Web site and solicit public comment on it through a **Federal Register** notice.

DATES: The expert panel meeting for bisphenol A will be held on March 5–7, 2007. Sections 1–4 of the draft expert panel report will be available for public comment on December 15, 2006. Written public comments on the draft report must be received by February 2, 2007. Time is set-aside at the expert panel meeting on March 5, 2007 for oral public comments. Individuals wishing to make oral public comments are asked to contact Dr. Michael D. Shelby,

CERHR Director, by February 26, 2007, and if possible, send a copy of the statement or talking points at that time. Persons needing special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodation in order to attend, should contact 919–541–2475 (voice), 919–541–4644 TTY (text telephone), through the Federal TTY Relay System at 800–877–8339, or by e-mail to *niehsoeeo@niehs.nih.gov*. Requests should be made at least seven business days in advance of the event.

ADDRESSES: The expert panel meeting on bisphenol A will be held at the Radisson Hotel Old Town 901 N. Fairfax Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314–1501 (telephone: 703–683–6000, facsimile: 703–683–7597). Comments on the draft expert panel report should be sent to Dr. Michael D. Shelby, CERHR Director, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC–32, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 (mail), (919) 316–4511 (fax), or *shelby@niehs.nih.gov* (e-mail). Courier address: CERHR, 79 T.W. Alexander Drive, Building 4401, Room 103, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michael D. Shelby, CERHR Director, 919–541–3455, *shelby@niehs.nih.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Bisphenol A (CAS RN: 80–5–07) is a high production volume chemical used in the production of epoxy resins, polyester resins, polysulfone resins, polyacrylate resins, polycarbonate plastics, and flame retardants. Polycarbonate plastics are used in food and drink packaging; resins are used as lacquers to coat metal products such as food cans, bottle tops, and water supply pipes. Some polymers used in dental sealants and tooth coatings contain bisphenol A. Exposure to the general population can occur through direct contact to bisphenol A or by exposure to food or drink that has been in contact with a material containing bisphenol A. CERHR selected this chemical for evaluation because of (1) high production volume, (2) widespread human exposure, (3) evidence of reproductive toxicity in laboratory animal studies, and (4) public concern.

At the meeting, the expert panel will review and revise the draft expert panel report and reach conclusions regarding whether exposure to bisphenol A is a hazard to human reproduction or development. Each draft expert panel report has the following sections:

1.0 Chemistry, Use, and Human Exposure.
2.0 General Toxicological and Biological Effects.
3.0 Developmental Toxicity Data.
4.0 Reproductive Toxicity Data.
5.0 Summary, Conclusions, and Critical Data Needs (to be prepared at expert panel meeting).

Request for Comments

The CERHR invites written public comments on sections 1–4 of the draft expert panel report on bisphenol A. Any comments received will be posted on the CERHR website prior to the meeting and distributed to the expert panel and CERHR staff for their consideration in revising the draft report and/or preparing for the expert panel meeting. Persons submitting written comments are asked to include their name and contact information (affiliation, mailing address, telephone and facsimile numbers, e-mail, and sponsoring organization, if any) and send them to Dr. Shelby (see **ADDRESSES** above) for receipt by February 2, 2007.

Time is set-aside on March 5, 2007, for the presentation of oral public comments at the expert panel meeting. Seven minutes will be available for each speaker (one speaker per organization). When registering to comment orally, please provide your name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone and facsimile numbers, email and sponsoring organization (if any). If possible, send a copy of the statement or talking points to Dr. Shelby by February 2. This statement will be provided to the expert panel to assist them in identifying issues for discussion and will be noted in the meeting record. Registration for presentation of oral comments will also be available at the meeting on March 5, 2007, from 7:30–8:30 a.m. Persons registering at the meeting are asked to bring 20 copies of their statement or talking points for distribution to the expert panel and for the record.

Preliminary Agenda

The meeting begins each day at 8:30 a.m. On March 5 and 6, it is anticipated that a lunch break will occur from noon–1 p.m. and the meeting will adjourn at 5–6 p.m. The meeting is expected to adjourn by noon on March 7; however, adjournment may occur earlier or later depending upon the time needed by the expert panel to complete its work. Anticipated agenda topics for each day are listed below.

March 5, 2007

- Opening remarks.
- Oral public comments (7 minutes per speaker; one representative per group).
- Review of sections 1–4 of the draft expert panel report on bisphenol A.
- Discussion of Section 5.0 Summary, Conclusions, and Critical Data Needs.

March 6, 2007

- Discussion of Section 5.0 Summary, Conclusions, and Critical Data Needs.
- Preparation of draft summaries and conclusion statements.

March 7, 2007

- Presentation, discussion of, and agreement on summaries, conclusions, and data needs.
- Closing comments.

Expert Panel Roster

The CERHR expert panel is composed of independent scientists selected for their scientific expertise in reproductive and/or developmental toxicology and other areas of science relevant for these evaluations.

Robert E. Chapin, PhD (Chair)	Pfizer Inc., Groton, CT.
Jane Adams, PhD	University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA.
Kim Boekelheide, MD, PhD	Brown University, Providence, RI.
Michael A. Gallo, PhD	University of Medicine & Dentistry NJ, Piscataway, NJ.
Leon Earl Gray, Jr, PhD	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC.
Simon William Hayward, PhD	Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN.
Peter S.J. Lees, PhD	The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.
Barry S. McIntyre, PhD	Schering-Plough Research Institute, Summit, NJ.
Michael John McPhaul, MD	The University of Texas, Dallas, Texas.
Kenneth Portier, PhD	American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA.
Teresa Schnorr, PhD	Centers for Disease Control, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, Cincinnati, OH.
Sherry G. Selevan, PhD	Retired, U.S. Public Health Service, Silver Spring, MD.
John G. Vandenbergh, PhD	North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.
Kendall B. Wallace, PhD	University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN.

Susan R. Woskie, PhD	University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA.

Background Information on the CERHR

The NTP established CERHR in June 1998 [**Federal Register**, December 14, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 239, page 68782)]. CERHR is a publicly accessible resource for information about adverse reproductive and/or developmental health effects associated with exposure to environmental and/or occupational exposures. Expert panels conduct scientific evaluations of agents selected by the CERHR in public forums.

CERHR invites the nomination of agents for review or scientists for its expert registry. Information about CERHR and the nomination process can be obtained from its homepage (*http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov*) or by contacting Dr. Shelby (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above). CERHR selects chemicals for evaluation based upon several factors including production volume, potential for human exposure from use and occurrence in the environment, extent of public concern, and extent of data from reproductive and developmental toxicity studies.

CERHR follows a formal, multi-step process for review and evaluation of selected chemicals. The formal evaluation process was published in the **Federal Register** on July 16, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 136, pages 37047–37048) and is available on the CERHR Web site under ''About CERHR'' or in printed copy from CERHR.

Dated: November 27, 2006.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program.

[FR Doc. E6–21040 Filed 12–11–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) allow the proposed information collection project: ''Pilot Study of Proposed Nursing Home Survey on Resident Safety''. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 12, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, 540 Gaither Road, Room #5036, Rockville, MD 20850.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from AHRQ's Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ, Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427–1477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

''Pilot Study of Proposed Nursing Home Survey on Resident Safety''

This activity is an expansion and refinement of AHRQ's Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (HSOPSC) which was developed and released to the public for use in November 2004. This proposed new tool is based on the HSOPSC but also contains new and revised items as well as dimensions that more accurately apply to the nursing home setting. The instrument will be pilot tested with staff in 40 nursing homes. The data collected will be analyzed to determine the psychometric properties of the survey's items and dimensions and provide information for the revision and shortening of the final survey based on an assessment of its reliability and construct validity. The final survey will be made publicly available to enable nursing homes to assess their resident safety culture.

Methods of Collection

A purposive sample of 40 nursing homes will be recruited and selected. These nursing homes will represent a distrubition of bed size, nature of ownership (non-profit/for-profit), urbanity (urban/rural), and geographic region of the United States. Recruited nursing homes will be allocated to each category in numbers roughly proportionate to the national distribution of homes in each category.

All employees, contractors and agency staff in all job classes in nursing homes with up to 200 employees will be asked to respond to the survey. In nursing homes with more than 200 employees, a random sample of 200 employees will be selected. Since not all nursing homes staff have access to or are familiar with e-mail or the internet, paper surveys will be administered. Standard non-response follow-up techniques such as reminder postcards and distrubiton of a second survey will be used. Individuals and organizations contacted will be assured of the confidentiality of their replies under Section 924(c) of the Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999.

Estimated Annual Respondent Burden

The survey will be distributed to approximately 5,500 nursing home employees, with a target response rate of 70%, or 3,850 returned surveys. Respondents should take approximately 15 minutes to complete the survey. Therefore, we estimate that the respondent burden for completing the survey will be 963 hours (3,850 completes multiplied by 0.25 hours per completed survey).

Type of Respondent	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Estimated Time per Respondent (hours)	Estimated Total Respondent Burden Hours
Nursing home staff member	3,850	1	0.25	963