

### ***Making HPV Challenge Information Accessible***

At present, stakeholders and the public can access test plans, data summaries, sponsor commitment information, chemical lists, guidance documents, and a wide range of other materials on the HPV Challenge Program website at <http://www.epa.gov/chemrtk>. As part of the Agency's ongoing efforts to ensure that the website is useable and accessible, EPA recently enhanced the search capability of its "Robust Summaries and Test Plans" webpage, which allows stakeholders to more efficiently search for submissions.

### ***Providing the Public with Important Information***

The public's access to HPV chemical information is the cornerstone of this program, and EPA plans to launch the HPV Information System (HPVIS), which will provide the public with complete and easy access to critical information on HPV chemicals. HPVIS will be a comprehensive website that allows a wide range of users to search existing data summary information, test plans, and new data as they are developed. The Agency's projected date for launching HPVIS is early 2005.

### ***Reviewing New Information***

EPA will carefully review new information submitted and developed under the HPV Challenge Program to ensure that any potential risks are understood and, when necessary, take appropriate action to address those risks.

### ***Completing the Program and Using the Data***

Now approaching its final year, the HPV Challenge Program information collection effort is providing opportunities for EPA to better screen for chemicals that may be of concern. Those identified chemicals will need additional information to enable comprehensive assessments.

Additionally, the HPV Challenge Program has afforded an opportunity for learning more about the uses of chemical categories. EPA will promote the HPV Challenge Program data as a resource for use by others and will pursue how to present the data for use by multiple non-technical audiences.

### ***HPV Challenge Program Success***

Since it was launched, this highly successful voluntary program has brought about significant progress in the collection and availability of HPV chemical data. Hundreds of companies have committed to participate in the program, often creating partnerships that never existed before; diverse stakeholders have worked together to build and implement a strong, compelling voluntary program; and 2,000 chemicals are becoming more widely understood by the Agency, the stakeholders, and, most importantly, the public, who now will have access to meaningful information concerning HPV chemicals.



## **High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals**

# **Status and Future Directions of the HPV Challenge Program**



### ***For HPV Challenge Program Information:***

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline:  
202-554-1404

HPV Challenge Program Website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/chemrtk/volchall.htm>

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics  
Washington, DC

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## The HPV Challenge Program

### *Why Is It Integral to the Public's Right-to-Know Concerning Chemicals?*

In 1998, three independent studies confirmed there were significant gaps in the basic data needed to understand and characterize the potential hazards associated with High Production Volume (HPV) chemicals. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Environmental Defense (ED), American Petroleum Institute (API), and American Chemistry Council (ACC) joined forces to launch the HPV Challenge Program, a collaborative partnership whose goal was to ensure that the American public had access to the type of information that would allow it to actively participate in environmental decisionmaking at all levels – federal, state, and local. This collection of screening-level hazard data will provide the public with basic information about the chemicals that are produced in the largest quantities.

### *Filling the Gaps—How Does the HPV Challenge Program Operate?*

A set of operating principles or guidelines, developed by a multi-stakeholder taskforce, provides the framework for the development and submission of data for the HPV chemicals. Specifically, through this program, companies voluntarily provide information to fill out basic screening-level data that include: physical-chemical property, environmental fate, ecotoxicological, and toxicological data.

The Agency encouraged the submission of existing data in an effort to minimize the need for additional testing. Where the “sponsor” determined that data needed to be developed, the sponsor submitted a test plan to fill data gaps.

The Agency posted the plan for both EPA and public comment, providing detailed feedback on the adequacy of the plan. Technical guidance documents were developed on such topics as: developing chemical categories, assessing the adequacy of existing data, and minimizing the use of animals for testing purposes. Once a plan has been reviewed and commented upon, the testing phase begins and completed test results are submitted to the Agency and made available on EPA's website.

### *Is It Working? What are the Results?*

#### *Extensive Voluntary Participation*

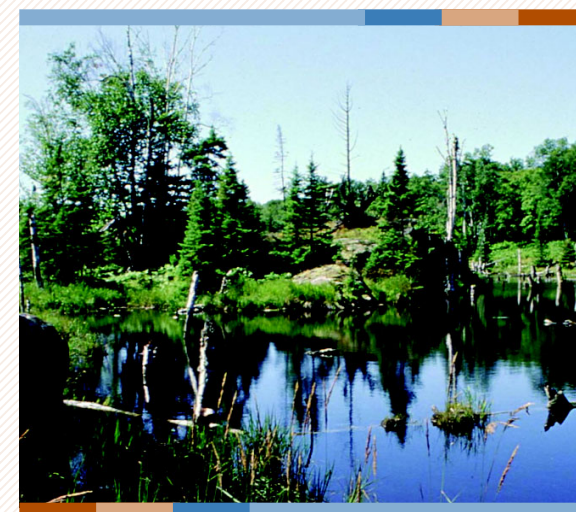
By July 2004, this successful voluntary initiative had resulted in commitments from more than 400 companies to sponsor 2,222 chemicals. These commitments came from individual companies and companies who joined together in more than 100 consortia to work cooperatively to make this information available to the public.

#### *Considerable Use of Existing Data*

As a result of the HPV Challenge Program, a significant amount of existing and previously unpublished health and environmental data is being made publicly available by the companies participating in the program. This is a major success of the program. EPA analysis also indicates that fewer than 10 percent of the gaps in publicly available information are being filled with new testing.

#### *Extensive Use of Chemical Categories*

One way to reduce testing is by using chemical categories to address data gaps. Currently, 81 percent of the chemicals covered in test plans are included in a chemical category. Categories contain a supporting hypothesis of how the



chemicals in the category relate to each other, as well as a description of how data for one chemical can be used to predict the toxicological responses of similar chemicals in the category.

## The Future for HPV Chemicals

### *Capturing Un-sponsored Chemicals*

To ensure that the public has access to baseline health and environmental data for all HPV chemicals, including those “orphan” chemicals not sponsored in this program, the Agency is taking steps to gather and make this information available. These steps include a last chance, voluntary sponsorship opportunity, as well as developing additional regulatory actions that would require testing of the chemicals (also known as a “test rule”). EPA expects to finalize a test rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act in 2005 that will capture a number of these orphan chemicals.