

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

#### Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Health Service (PHS) Activities and Research at Department of Energy (DOE) Sites: Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee.

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announce the following meeting.

*Name:* Citizens Advisory Committee on PHS Activities and Research at DOE Sites: Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee (ORRHES).

*Time and Date:* 12 p.m.–8 p.m., February 10, 2003.

*Place:* YWCA of Oak Ridge, 1660 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 37830. Telephone: (865) 482-9922.

*Status:* Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 100 people.

*Background:* A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in October 1990 and renewed in September 2000 between ATSDR and DOE delineates the responsibilities and procedures for ATSDR's public health activities at DOE sites required under sections 104, 105, 107, and 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund"). These activities include health consultations and public health assessments at DOE sites listed on, or proposed for, the Superfund National Priorities List and at sites that are the subject of petitions from the public; and other health-related activities such as epidemiologic studies, health surveillance, exposure and disease registries, health education, substance-specific applied research, emergency response, and preparation of toxicological profiles. In addition, under an MOU signed in December 1990 with DOE and replaced by an MOU signed in 2000, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been given the responsibility and resources for conducting analytic epidemiologic investigations of residents of communities in the vicinity of DOE facilities, workers at DOE facilities, and other persons potentially exposed to radiation or to potential hazards from non-nuclear energy production and use. HHS has delegated program responsibility to CDC.

*Purpose:* This subcommittee is charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Director, CDC, and the Administrator, ATSDR, pertaining to CDC's and ATSDR's public health activities and research at this DOE site. Activities shall focus on providing the public with a vehicle to express concerns and provide advice and recommendations to CDC and ATSDR. The purpose of this meeting is to receive updates from ATSDR and CDC, and to address other issues and topics, as necessary.

*Matters to be Discussed:* The agenda includes a discussion of the public health assessment, updates from the Public Health Assessment, Health Needs Assessment, Guidelines and Procedures, Agenda, and Communications and Outreach Workgroups. Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

*Contact Person for More Information:* La Freta Dalton, Designated Federal Official, or Marilyn Palmer, Committee Management Specialist, Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., M/S E-32, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone 1-888-42-ATSDR(28737), fax 404/498-1744.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign Federal Register notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: December 20, 2002.

**Alvin Hall,**

*Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-03-31]

#### Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404)498-1210.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques

or other forms of information technology. Send comments to Anne O'Connor, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

*Proposed Project:* Proposed Project: Work-Related Stress Among Coal Miners—NEW—The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Work-related stress appears to increase the risk of atherosclerotic heart disease, musculoskeletal disorders such as back pain and carpal tunnel syndrome, and clinical depression. The mechanism by which stress increases the risk of chronic disease states is unknown, but it is thought to involve abnormal communication between the brain and the endocrine system. Dysfunction of this communication system, called the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal (HPA) axis, is found in a number of chronic diseases, including coronary heart disease, diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis. In a healthy individual, there is flexible communication between the hypothalamus and pituitary, both located in the brain, and the adrenal gland, located above the kidneys. When stresses occur throughout the day, cortisol is released from the adrenal gland in response to signals from the brain. Cortisol prepares the body to respond to stress, after which cortisol levels return to normal. Chronic stress, with protracted or repeated challenge to the HPA axis, may lead to inappropriate levels of cortisol, further decline of HPA axis function, and increased risk of chronic disease.

This study will investigate the relationship between workplace stress and function of the HPA axis among a sample population of coal miners. Coal miners experience a number of work-related stresses such as long hours of work, heavy workloads, shift work, and concerns about stability of employment. Miners will be asked to complete a 25-minute survey which asks about traditional job stressors including shift schedule and rotation, workload, and degree of control over work. The survey also addresses stressors not typically examined in work stress surveys including time spent in second jobs, commuting time to work, and responsibilities for care of children and the elderly.

Function of the HPA axis will be assessed by obtaining a series of cortisol samples from subjects right after they wake up in the morning. Recent studies have shown that the response of cortisol