

will be distributed to the Panel and NTP staff and will be used to supplement the record.

Written comments, in lieu of an oral presentation, are also welcome. The comments should include contact information, including name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail, and sponsoring organization (if any) and preferably be received by July 15, 2002, to enable review by the Panel and NTP staff prior to the meeting as well as to supplement the record.

NTP Studies

Hexavalent chromium (CAS number 18540-29-9) was nominated to the NTP for study of its potential toxicity and carcinogenicity when administered to animals in the drinking water. Hexavalent chromium is a known human carcinogen (<http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov>, see Report on Carcinogens). It has been proposed that the reduction of hexavalent chromium to the trivalent form in the gut provides a physiological barrier such that when exposure to hexavalent chromium occurs from drinking water, the absorption of hexavalent chromium would not be sufficient to cause cancer. Public comments received in response to the earlier **Federal Register** notice (see above) suggested that this reductive mechanism would be expected to be more effective in humans and other animals lacking an anatomical forestomach than in rats and mice that have a forestomach.

To address these considerations, the NTP carried out studies in which rats, mice and guinea pigs (which lack a forestomach) received drinking water containing sodium dichromate dihydrate for 21 days. After that time, the animals were sacrificed and blood, kidney and bone were collected and analyzed for total chromium. The complete protocol and data from these studies are available on the NTP Web site (<http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov>).

Additionally, the NTP has completed 90-day toxicity studies of standard design in which F344/N rats and B6C3F1 mice of both sexes received control water or one of 5 concentrations (62.5, 125, 250, 500, or 1000 mg/L) of hexavalent chromium in their drinking water. The studies included measurements of clinical chemistry indices and the animals received a complete histopathological evaluation. The protocol outline for these studies is also available on the NTP Web site and data from the 90-day studies are anticipated to be available on the NTP Web site approximately one month prior to the meeting.

Also available on the NTP Web site is a draft protocol that outlines 2-year toxicity and carcinogenicity studies of hexavalent chromium in rats and mice. The NTP will establish the final design for these studies following completion and evaluation of the 90-day studies, evaluation of the data for total chromium tissue concentration from the 21-day studies, and consideration of input from the Panel, all written received in response to this notice, and oral public comments received at the public meeting.

Background

Chromium is a naturally occurring element, present in several valence states. The most common valence states are trivalent (Chromium III), hexavalent (Chromium VI), and elemental chromium (0). Chromium III is an essential nutrient forming part of a complex known as the glucose tolerance factor. Chromium compounds are stable in the trivalent state and occur in nature most commonly at this oxidation level. Hexavalent chromium compounds are the next most stable forms, although these rarely occur in nature and are typically associated with anthropogenic (human activities) sources.

Hexavalent chromium is more toxic than trivalent chromium, and is absorbed from the gut more readily than trivalent chromium. Hexavalent chromium is an oxidant and it reduces to trivalent chromium, passing through the intermediate reactive V and IV valence states. The toxicity of hexavalent chromium is thought to result from either direct binding of these intermediates to cellular constituents or through the generation of free radicals.

Prolonged inhalation of hexavalent chromium is an established cause of occupational lung cancer in chromate production workers and people engaged in the manufacture of chromate pigments. This finding is supported by inhalation studies in rats and mice that have shown lung tumors following exposure to calcium chromate or sodium dichromate.

Orally administered chromium compounds are relatively poorly absorbed, with most estimates in the range of 0.5 to 2%. The absorption of trivalent chromium is approximately one quarter that of the hexavalent form. Hexavalent chromium reduces to trivalent chromium in the stomach, and this reduction may potentially limit its systemic availability. This "protective" mechanism is not complete, however, because studies have shown that orally administered hexavalent chromium, when given at doses far below those where trivalent chromium showed no

adverse effect, caused liver and kidney toxicity. Other concerns with hexavalent chromium given orally involve gastrointestinal effects. Acute gastritis is a common finding in humans who accidentally or intentionally ingested various hexavalent chromium compounds. Also, in a study reported in 1968, a small increase in primarily benign forestomach papillomas was seen in mice exposed to potassium chromate in the drinking water at 9 mg/kg Chromium VI for three generations over 880 days.

Dated: May 16, 2002.

Kenneth Olden,

Director, National Toxicology Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Toxicology Program; Announcement of Availability of Background Documents for Substances Nominated for Listing in the Report on Carcinogens, Eleventh Edition

Availability of Background Documents

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) announces the availability of the background documents for four nominations under consideration for listing in the Report on Carcinogens (RoC), Eleventh Edition ("the Eleventh RoC"). The background documents are available for the nominations: *Cobalt Sulfate*, *Diethanolamine*, *Nitromethane*, and *4,4'-Thiodianiline*. They can be obtained electronically on the NTP Web site: <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov> (select Report on Carcinogens) or in hardcopy by contacting Dr. C. W. Jameson at the following address: National Toxicology Program, Report on Carcinogens, 79 Alexander Drive, Building 4401, Room 3118, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; phone: (919) 541-4096, fax: (919) 541-0144, e-mail: jameson@niehs.nih.gov.

The background documents for these four nominations are the first to be released for nominations under consideration for the Eleventh RoC. These documents are being made available at this time in response to the October, 1999 public meeting that discussed the preparation and review of the Report on Carcinogens where concerns were expressed regarding the need to increase the time allotted for public review and comment on the RoC

background documents. The NTP will make all future RoC background documents available as soon as they are completed. All future notifications about the availability of background documents for other nominations under consideration for the Eleventh RoC will be provided through NTP list-server announcements. Individuals or groups can subscribe to the NTP list-server in several ways: (1) By registering online at <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov>, (2) by sending an e-mail to ntpmail-request@list.niehs.nih.gov with the word "subscribe" as the body of the message, or (3) by contacting the NTP Office of Liaison and Scientific Review (919-541-0530 or liaison@starbase.niehs.nih.gov).

Individuals or groups who have already subscribed to the NTP list-server do not need to subscribe again.

The NTP has identified the nominations under consideration for listing in the Eleventh RoC in previous **Federal Register** notices (**Federal Register**: July 24, 2001 (Vol. 66, No. 142) pages 38430-38432 and **Federal Register**: March 28, 2002 (Vol. 67, No. 60) page 14957). The NTP follows a formal process for the review of nominations that includes multiple phases of scientific peer review and several opportunities for public comments. Additional information about the review of nominations for the Eleventh RoC, including the date and location of the public meeting of the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors RoC Subcommittee and the deadline for submission of public comments for consideration at that review, will be announced through future **Federal Register** and NTP list-server notices.

Background Information about the RoC

The RoC is an informational, scientific, and public health document that identifies and discusses agents, substances, mixtures, and exposure circumstances that may pose a carcinogenic hazard to human health. The report is prepared biennially in response to section 301 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. The NTP welcomes nominations for listing in or changing the current listing in the RoC at any time. Additional information about the nomination process, the criteria for listing a nomination in the RoC, and the formal multi-step review process for nominations is available on the NTP Web site (<http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov>, select Report on Carcinogens) or from Dr. Jameson at the address provided above.

Dated: May 9, 2002.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Toxicology Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

[Program Announcement No. CFDA 93.598]

ORR Announcement for Services To Victims of a Severe Form of Trafficking

AGENCY: Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), ACF, HHS.

ACTION: Request for Applications for projects to increase awareness about human trafficking and to support services for individuals determined to be victims of a severe form of trafficking. This notice supersedes the notice published in the **Federal Register** on February 8, 2002 (67 FR 6048).

SUMMARY: This ORR announcement invites submission of grant applications for funding, on a competitive basis, in three categories: Category 1—Local/Community Outreach and/or Services for Victims of a Severe Form of Trafficking; Category 2—Technical Assistance and Training; and Category 3—Information Discovery for National Outreach/Educational Campaign.

DATES: July 31, 2002 is the closing date for all categories. Please note that all applications must be received (as opposed to postmarked) in ACF by this date or they will be considered late.

Announcement Availability: The program announcement and the application materials are available from Jay Womack and Neil Kromash, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, DC 20447 and from the ORR website at: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For all categories, contact Jay Womack, (202) 401-5525, jwomack@acf.hhs.gov or Neil Kromash, (202) 401-5702, nkromash@acf.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program announcement consists of four parts:

Part I: Background, legislative authority, funding availability, CFDA Number, eligible applicants, project and budget periods, and for each of the three categories—program purpose and objectives, allowable and non-allowable activities, and review criteria.

Part II: The Review Process—intergovernmental review, initial ACF screening, and competitive review.
Part III: The Application—application forms, application submission and deadlines, certifications, general instructions for preparing a full project description, and length of application.

Part IV: Post-award—applicable regulations, treatment of program income, and reporting requirements.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 16 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. The following information collections are included in the program announcement for categories 1-3: OMB Approval No. 0970-0139, ACF UNIFORM PROJECT DESCRIPTION (UPD) attached as Appendix A, which expires 12/30/03 and OMB Approval No. 0970-0036, ORR Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) and Schedule C which expire 7/31/02. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Part I: Background

Since 1994, ORR has provided assistance for social services to meet the needs of newly arriving refugees through a standing announcement. In May 2001, ORR modified that announcement to include services to victims of a severe form of trafficking. However, in February 2002, ORR further modified Category 3 of the existing standing announcement by removing services to victims of a severe form of trafficking in order to proceed with a new and separate announcement specifically aimed at promoting awareness about human trafficking and addressing the service needs of victims of a severe form of trafficking. That notice of modification was published in the **Federal Register** on February 8, 2002 (67 FR 6048).

This new Announcement establishes a new set of three categories designed to increase awareness about trafficking in persons and provide assistance to victims of a severe form of trafficking.

Legislative Authority

These grants are authorized by three provisions of law: section 107(b)(1)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), section 412(c)(1)(A) of the