

Information Products Bulletin

August 2008

Significant Information Products Under Development or Modification

The Information Products Bulletin (IPB) is a joint effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) to inform the public about "*significant information products*" being developed by EPA and some states, and identify opportunities for stakeholder and public involvement. "*Significant information products*" include products under development or modification by EPA and states, that use national or regional data to describe environmental conditions, trends, and/or the performance of companies, facilities and communities. Each of the product descriptions below includes a list of the stakeholder and public involvement activities that are expected to be available during product development. It should be noted that not all products provide an opportunity for stakeholder or public input during product development. Examples of such products are those produced on a routine or annual basis, or those that are technical, science-based documents that undergo a rigorous peer review process.

Specific information regarding dates for public meetings, workshops, forums, etc. may be obtained about individual products by contacting the number listed under each product description.

Please Note: The IPB is not intended to be a compilation of all EPA and State information products, only "*significant information products*" currently in the pipeline. Expected release dates are the best estimates to date; schedules are subject to change.

Products Under Development

Cross-Media

Seventh Annual Performance Track Progress Report

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Seventh Annual Performance Track Progress Report is primarily an update of environmental results achieved by members since the last progress report published (2008). Updated information on member locations, the program structure, criteria, and achievements is also included. The purpose of this publication is to demonstrate how Performance Track members achieve not only the strategic goals across media but also those that extend above and beyond what can be accomplished through regulation.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of the Administrator/Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation/Office of Cross-Media Programs/Performance Track Division

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): E-mail/Listserv, Web site/Web page, Hotline/Public Information Line

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/performance/track/pubs.htm

Pesticides

Meso-scale Atmospheric Transport Model

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: EPA is working with the United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Department of Energy, and Department of Defense to develop a Geographic Information System-based complex terrain atmospheric transport model. This model will help the Pesticides Office estimate deposition and airborne concentrations of pesticides 1 to 100km downwind from small or large application areas.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances/Office of Pesticide Programs

- **Co-Developer:** Office of Research and Development

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances/Office of Pesticide Programs

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Water

Chesapeake Online Assessment Support Tool

Federal vs. State: State

Description: The Chesapeake Online Assessment Support Tool (COAST) is a series of internet-based tools and information products which allow managers to employ more of an adaptive-management approach for implementing and assessing management actions. The COAST product is being developed to help support implementation of the Chesapeake Action Plan, which will enhance coordination and integration of Chesapeake Bay Program partner activities to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The initial version of COAST will focus on water-quality activities in the watershed and have several components: 1. Map the range of nutrient loads to better focus management actions. 2. Test alternative scenarios to implement management actions. 3. Assess water-quality change and progress. 4. Better understand the factors affecting water quality.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Region 3

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Chesapeake Bay Program

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s)

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Products Undergoing Significant Revisions and/or Products that are Released on a Regular Basis

Air

CMAQ Model Version 4.7

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) modeling system was developed by the EPA National Exposure Research Laboratory in 1999 and continues to be upgraded with new releases periodically. CMAQ is a modeling framework available to air quality regulators, policy makers, industry, and scientists to address multi-scale, multi-pollutant air quality concerns. The CMAQ has a unique framework and science design that enables scientists and regulators to build their own modeling system to suit their needs. Users can access pre-installed modeling systems provided by the EPA or can incorporate their own modeling systems to work within the existing framework software. Version 4.7 is expected to include several upgrades to the treatment of atmospheric aerosol processes including: upgrades to secondary organic aerosol (SOA) mechanism and physics (SOAs contribute organic carbon with contributes to PM2.5 which causes haze and adverse health effects), improvements in representation of heterogeneous reaction pathways, and improvements in representation of coarse particles. CMAQ V4.7 will be available for download from <http://www.cmascenter.org/>.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development

- **EPA Office/Organization:** National Exposure Research Laboratory
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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, Other

How to Access Draft Product: www.cmascenter.org/

CMAQ-WRF (Weather Research Forecast)

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) modeling system was developed by the EPA National Exposure Research Laboratory in 1999. CMAQ is a modeling framework available to air quality regulators, policy makers, industry, and scientists to address multi-scale, multi-pollutant air quality concerns. The CMAQ has a unique framework and science design that enables scientists and regulators to build their own modeling system to suit their needs. Users can access pre-installed modeling systems provided by the EPA or can incorporate their own modeling systems to work within the existing framework software. The NOAA and EPA have developed an operational Air Quality Forecasting System for the contiguous United States. The system, which couples NOAA's WRF (Weather Research Forecast) meteorological model with EPA's CMAQ model, provides public forecasts of hourly, peak 1- and 8-hour ozone (O3) concentrations throughout the summer of 2007. In order to characterize the performance of the modeling system a suite of statistical metrics that facilitates evaluation of both discrete-type forecasts (observed versus modeled concentrations of O3) and categorical-type forecasts (observed versus modeled exceedances of both the maximum 1-hr and 8-hr standards for O3) will be applied over various temporal and spatial resolutions. Ozone data from more than 1000 monitors obtained from EPA's AIRNOW monitoring network will be used in the evaluation. Model will be available for download from <http://www.cmascenter.org/>.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development

- **EPA Office/Organization:** National Exposure Research Laboratory, National Exposure Research Laboratory

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert

consultation, Other

How to Access Draft Product: ams.confex.com/ams/88Annual/techprogram/paper_133210.htm

Progress in Reducing the Risk from Radon in America's Homes

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: This report will present data on the scope of the radon risk in homes, the use of residential radon mitigation systems in existing homes, and the use of radon resistant construction in new homes. The intended audience includes members of the radon mitigation industry and the construction industry, as well as federal, state, and local government officials in the radon field.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Air and Radiation

- **EPA Office/Organization:** OAR-ORIA-IED-CR&AT (Indoor Environments Division, Center for Radon & Air Toxics)

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation, Survey(s)/Questionnaire(s)

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Cross-Media

2008 Sector Strategies Performance Report

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Sector Strategies Program promotes industry-wide environmental gains through innovative partnerships with 12 manufacturing and service sectors. EPA works with sector trade groups and other stakeholders to develop policies and programs that are designed to reduce pollution and conserve resources with less administrative burden. The Sector Strategies Program measures sector-wide performance trends through quantitative metrics. Findings have been published in Performance Reports released in 2004 and 2006. The program now is developing a report for 2008. The report will use available emissions and resource data, case studies, and other performance indicators to provide a current snapshot of environmental progress in each sector. The 2008 report will, for the first time, include data on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. This report will be used by EPA programs and many outside groups, including the sectors themselves, to refine and enhance sector-based performance improvement strategies.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/sectors/performance.html

Bio-reactor Landfill State of the Practice Report

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: EPA has developed and is in the process of publishing a report documenting the current practice of operating municipal sanitary landfills as bio-reactors. A bio-reactor landfill is one in which liquids are introduced to accelerate the microbial degradation of the waste. This is a relatively new concept that is being tested in a number of facilities around the country. The advantages of accelerating degradation include increased opportunity to recover useful gas, reduced period of time needed to provide leachate and other environmental controls, increased

disposal capacity, and earlier achievement of site stability. This study describes current technical practices, operating experiences, and environmental impacts. For further information, please contact Thabet Tolaymat (information listed below), or Jennifer Goetz at goetz.jennifer@epa.gov or 513-569-7899.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development
 - **Co-Developer:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
 - **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Research and Development/National Risk Management Research Laboratory
- Thabet Tolaymat, 513-487-2860, tolaymat.thabet@epa.gov

Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s), Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, Survey(s)/Questionnaire(s)

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

EPA State Innovation Grant Program Progress Report - Strategic Partnership in Environmental Innovation

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The US EPA's National Center for Environmental Innovation (NCEI) is preparing this report primarily for our State environmental agency partners to describe the results to date for projects being conducted with support from the EPA State Innovation Grant Program. The report may also be useful to the EPA Programs and Regions to highlight the successes and progress thus far in the grant program and to help them identify further opportunity for expanding the use of innovation in permitting programs. The EPA State Innovation Grant Program was created in 2002 and funded to assist States in solving key environmental problems using innovative methods. EPA wanted to use the State Innovation Grant Program to: build more effective collaboration with States to identify areas ripe for innovation; help State Agencies identify operating cost efficiencies through innovation; realize cost or time savings for regulated entities; elicit best ideas through a competitive process with States submitting a proposal in response to an EPA solicitation; and build in measurement and evaluation essential to transferability of the innovation. The report provides an analysis of the outcomes of projects completed to date and a description of the projects still underway. Since 2002, the National Center for Environmental Innovation has made 29 project awards totaling nearly \$5M to test strategic innovation in State environmental permitting programs.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation
- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Environmental Policy Innovation/ National Center for Environmental Innovation/ Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation/ Office of the Administrator Gerald Filbin, 202-566-2182, 202-566-2220(FAX), filbin.gerald@epa.gov

Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment: Highlights of National Trends

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: EPA's Report on the Environment will describe national environmental conditions and trends. EPA received feedback about the 2003 Draft Report on the Environment and is applying this feedback to EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment: Highlights Document to ensure that it is useful to citizens who are interested in environmental information. The Agency also is developing EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment, which will provide more detail about indicators and identify data gaps. The point of contact for the Report on the Environment is Denice Shaw (202 566-0639) in the Office of Research and Development. Both reports will be available on the Internet.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Environmental Information
- **Co-Developer:** Office of Research and Development
- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Environmental Information/Office of Information Analysis and Access

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Comment Period: August 03, 2007 - September 17, 2007

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Public meeting(s), Stakeholder meeting(s), Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Focus group(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, Federal Register notice, E-mail/Listserv, Web site/Web page, Information fact sheet(s) and other similar materials, Mailing to stakeholders

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/roe

Survey Management Handbook

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Survey Management Handbook provides guidance on the conduct, design and analysis of environmental surveys. The Handbook is written for use by both statisticians and non-statisticians and provides practical advice on many aspects of survey research. The Handbook and the Guide to Secondary Information Products are the first in a number of OEI information publications that will provide guidance in developing quality information products.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Environmental Information
- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Environmental Information/Office of Information Analysis and Access

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation, E-mail/Listserv

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Pesticides

Tier II Groundwater Model for Carbamate Cumulative

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: EPA is developing a Tier II Groundwater Model that will generate refined estimations of concentrations of pesticides in groundwater for the carbamate cumulative risk assessment. The Agency is working with USGS to evaluate existing vadose-zone models that can be adapted for use in this risk assessment. The three models that have been evaluated include PRZM, RZWQM, and LEACHMP. The preliminary evaluation of these models was completed and included in the Agency's cumulative carbamate assessment. In August 2005, the Scientific Advisory Panel reviewed the Agency's preliminary carbamate cumulative risk assessment and provided comments. The final evaluation for the Tier II ground water model used in the carbamate cumulative is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2006. The final evaluation for the Tier II ground water model used in the carbamate cumulative was completed September 2007 and is included in the Revised N-Methyl Carbamate Cumulative Risk Assessment (http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDS/nmc_revised_cra.pdf).

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances/Office of Pesticide Programs
- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances/Office of Pesticide Programs

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Comment Period: February 15, 2005 - February 18, 2005

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Public meeting(s), Federal Register notice, E-mail/Listserv, Web site/Web page

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap

Solid Waste and Emergency Response

MSW in the U.S.: Facts and Figures

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: Each year EPA publishes a comprehensive report on the quantity, composition, and management practices of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generated in the United States. The data is based on a model that tracks consumption of materials in the manufacture of consumer goods and products. Data is broken down by material (paper, glass, steel, etc.) and product (newspapers, corrugated cardboard, beverage containers, etc.) and reported in terms of amount generated, recycled, and disposed.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response/Office of Solid Waste

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/msw/

National Priority Chemicals Trends Report (2004-06 5-07)

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: This report tracks progress being made toward the EPA OSW goal, under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), to reduce the quantity of Priority Chemicals contained in wastes. The Trends Report also shows trends from 2004-06 5-07, concerning the generation and management of the Priority Chemicals by National, EPA Region, State, county, industry sector, and federal facility levels. The report also will present the generation and management trends of the Priority Chemicals within selected industry sectors and will, for the first time, also include biennial hazardous waste reporting data. EPA Regions will use the data in the Report to target specific industries and facilities for recruitment into OSWER's growing voluntary waste minimization program. EPA annually updates this report, using the most recent Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data available to examine waste generation and management trends for the Priority Chemicals. The Trends Report and associated facility-specific data are only accessible at the website indicated below.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response/Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Division

Ben Lesser, 703-308-0314, 703-308-8433(FAX), lesser.ben@epa.gov

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Comment Period: July 01, 2008 - August 31, 2008

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation, Web site/Web page

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/trends.htm

Toxic Substances

Internet Geographical Exposure Modeling System (IGEMS)

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Internet Geographical Exposure Modeling System (IGEMS), currently under development, is a modernization of several older stand-alone models. IGEMS brings together in one system several EPA environmental fate and transport models and some of the environmental data needed to run them. It also uses graphing and Geographic Information System (GIS)

capabilities. IGEMS will eventually include models and data for ambient air, surface water, soil and ground water. Interactive menus guide users through selecting models, selecting and organizing data to be used as input to model runs, executing model runs, presenting model outputs, and accessing user help. With the IGEMS graphical and GIS capabilities, users can view the results as isopleths, vectors, etc., and as geographic presentations, including overlays with population and geographic location. The beta test version of IGEMS is available; the final release date will be determined after peer review.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances/ Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances/Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

Wen-Hsiung Lee, 202-564-8544, 202-564-8671(FAX), lee.wen-hsiung@epa.gov

Comment Period: October 01, 2008 - September 30, 2009

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Web site/Web page, Information fact sheet(s) and other similar materials

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/oppt/exposure/pubs/gems.htm

Water

National Study of Chemical Residues in Lake Fish Tissue Final Report

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The National Study of Chemical Residues in Lake Fish Tissue is the largest national freshwater fish contamination survey EPA has conducted to date, and it is the first national fish contamination study with sampling sites selected according to a statistical design. Over a period of 4 years (2000-2003), fish were collected from 500 lakes and reservoirs in the lower 48 states. The fish samples (one predator composite and one bottom dweller composite from each site) were analyzed for 268 persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals, and the results used to develop national estimates of mean concentrations of these chemicals in fish. The statistical design of the study also provides the basis for estimating the percentage of lakes and reservoirs across the country with fish tissue concentrations above or below levels of concern for human or ecosystem health. The final report will summarize the sampling design and present the statistical analysis of the cumulative 4-year fish contamination data set.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Water/Office of Science and Technology
Leanne Stahl, 202-566-0404, 202-566-0409(FAX), stahl.leanne@epa.gov

Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishstudy/