

# Information Products Bulletin

April 2009

## 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

### Air

#### National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report

**Federal vs. State:** Federal

**Description:** This is an annual report on EPA's most recent evaluation of air pollution trends in the United States. The focus of the report is on the status and trends in the ambient air concentrations and emissions of six pollutants (carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide) for which EPA has established national ambient air quality standards. EPA also identifies air quality trends related to toxic air pollutants (such as benzene, methylene chloride, and mercury), visibility impairment, and acid rain.

**Contact Information:**

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

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Air/Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Office of Air/Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Dennis Doll, 919-541-5593, 919-541-3613(FAX), doll.dennis@epa.gov

Jan Cortelyou-Lee, 919-541-5393, 919-541-2464(FAX), cortelyou-lee@epa.gov

**Comment Period:** None available  
**Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s):** None  
**How to Access Draft Product:** [www.epa.gov/airtrends](http://www.epa.gov/airtrends)

## 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 Resource Conservation and Recovery  
Hope Pillsbury, 703-308-7258, 703-308-8686(FAX), [pillsbury.hope@epa.gov](mailto:pillsbury.hope@epa.gov)

**Comment Period:** None available

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

**How to Access Draft Product:** [www.epa.gov/msw/](http://www.epa.gov/msw/)

## Water

### Fish Tissue Analysis for Mercury and PCBs from Commercial Fish/Seafood Markets

**Federal vs. State:** Federal

**Description:** In response to a recent Health and Nutritional Examination Survey conducted by the NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene that identified elevated blood mercury concentrations in adult NYC residents, EPA has conducted a study to determine the mean mercury concentration of fish/shellfish species commonly consumed by New Yorkers. The intent of this study is to provide information that gives meaning to the phrase "Eat Fish, Choose Wisely" (NYCDOHMH). Twenty two commonly consumed species were sampled. The number of samples analyzed ranged from 4 - 16. Generally, a sample was a composite of three individual specimens, although for some small species (e.g. clams, shrimp, mussels) numerous specimens constituted an individual sample. All samples were obtained from the Fulton Fish Market (Bronx, NY) in May/June, 2008. The study is a collaborative effort between ORD and Region 2. In addition to mercury analysis, a subset of the samples will be analyzed for PCBs. NCEA is the ORD lead office for the study and is providing project management and statistical consultation. NRMRL provided contract services out of their lab in Edison, NJ, for sample collection and preparation. NERL's Cincinnati lab performed DNA sequencing for the fish samples to positively identify species. The Region 2 lab in Edison performed the mercury analysis and is performing PCB tissue analyses.

**Contact Information:**

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development
- **Co-Developer:** Region 2
- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Research and Development/National Center for Environmental Assessment

Cheryl Itkin, 703-347-8557, [Itkin.Cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:Itkin.Cheryl@epa.gov)

Mark Maddaloni, 212-637-3590, [Maddaloni.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Maddaloni.Mark@epa.gov)

**Comment Period:** None available

**Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s):** Other  
**How to Access Draft Product:** No URL Available

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

### **Air**

#### **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 (O<sub>3</sub>) 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 O<sub>3</sub>) and categorical-type forecasts (observed versus modeled exceedances of both the maximum 1-hr and 8-hr standards for O<sub>3</sub>) 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

Brian Eder, 919-541-3994, 919-541-1379(FAX), [eder.brian@epa.gov](mailto:eder.brian@epa.gov)

Robin Baily, 919-541-7906, 919-541-0602(FAX), [baily.robin@epa.gov](mailto:baily.robin@epa.gov)

**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](http://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)

Philip Jalbert, 202-343-9431, 202-343-2394(FAX), [jalbert.philip@epa.gov](mailto:jalbert.philip@epa.gov)

**Comment Period:** None available

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

**How to Access Draft Product:** No URL Available

## Cross-Media

### 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

### 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

Barry Nussbaum, 202-566-1493, nussbaum.barry@epa.gov

**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](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

Michael Barrett, 703-305-6391, 703-308-6181(FAX), [barrett.michael@epa.gov](mailto:barrett.michael@epa.gov)

**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](http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap)

## Solid Waste and Emergency Response

### National Priority Chemicals Trends Report (2005 -2007)

**Federal vs. State:** Federal

**Description:** This report tracks progress being made toward the EPA ORCR goal, under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), to reduce the quantity of Priority Chemicals contained in wastes. Using Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data, the Trends Report also shows trends from 2005 - 2007, concerning the generation and management of the Priority Chemicals by National, EPA Region, State, county, industry sector, and federal facility levels. The report also includes estimates of the quantities of Priority Chemicals contained in hazardous waste streams, derived from the Hazardous Waste Biennial Reporting (BR) data. EPA Regions use the data in this 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 TRI data and Hazardous Waste BR 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, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response/Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Division

Bill Kline, 540-341-3631, 540-349-9181(FAX), [kline.bill@epa.gov](mailto:kline.bill@epa.gov)

Tammie Owen, 703-308-4044, 703-308-8433(FAX), [owen.tammie@epa.gov](mailto:owen.tammie@epa.gov)

**Comment Period:** None available

**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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishstudy/)