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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVIDENCE GROWING ON HEALTH RISKS FROM TCE; CURRENT DATA ARE SUFFICIENT FOR EPA TO FINALIZE RISK ASSESSMENT

WASHINGTON -- A new report from the National Academies' National Research Council recommends rese understanding of how the environmental contaminant trichloroethylene causes cancer and other adverse he enough information exists for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to complete a credible human healt

In 2001 EPA issued a draft risk assessment on trichloroethylene, a solvent widely used as a degreasing age air, soil, and water at several military installations and hundreds of waste sites around the country. The rele assessment was followed by much debate about the quality of evidence on trichloroethylene and how that e assessed. This prompted an interagency group to request that a Research Council committee review issue health risks from exposure to trichloroethylene, commonly referred to as TCE. The committee was not aske assessment of its own.

The evidence on cancer and other health risks from TCE exposure has strengthened since 2001, the comm that research, including studies of human populations, supports the conclusion that TCE is a potential cause Research shows that the chemical may cause other kidney problems as well, but the level of exposure neec damage is not clear. Animal data indicate that relatively high doses of TCE are needed to induce liver toxici epidemiology studies indicate a higher incidence of liver cancer among populations exposed to TCE, but the inconsistent. Studies of people exposed to TCE at work do not show a strong association between exposur report notes.

Animal research and human population studies suggest that TCE exposure may also be associated with oth reproductive and developmental problems, impaired neurological function, and autoimmune disease. The c studies to advance understanding of the mechanisms by which TCE causes cancer and other health proble most sensitive to TCE's effects; and how exposure to a mixture of TCE and other chemicals affects human h

A large body of epidemiological data on TCE and cancer is available, but a new analysis of that data is neec the hazard that TCE presents to humans, the committee said. It found several weaknesses in the analysis t risk assessment, as well as in an analysis developed by researchers since the draft was issued. To overcor new analysis should establish clear criteria for including epidemiological studies based on objective characte said. It added that it would be appropriate for EPA to use a model jointly developed with the U.S. Air Force metabolizes TCE, although the model does not resolve uncertainty about the mechanisms by which the che

A model is being used to extrapolate from animal studies an estimate of the cancer risk posed by TCE at lov extrapolated below a "point of departure," which is associated with an incremental effect, such as 5 percent should consider a range of points of departure in its risk assessment, the committee recommended. Becaus

evidence on how TCE triggers cancer to choose the best model for relating the body's response to different dose-response model -- it is appropriate under EPA's cancer guidelines to extrapolate the risk using a linear risk rises in proportion to dose.

The committee's report was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Defe Energy, and NASA. The National Research Council is the principal operating arm of the National Academy National Academy of Engineering. It is a private, nonprofit institution that provides science and technology a congressional charter. A committee roster follows.

Copies of ASSESSING THE HUMAN HEALTH RISKS OF TRICHLOROETHYLENE: KEY SCIENTIFIC ISS the National Academies Press; tel. 202-334-3313 or 1-800-624-6242 or on the Internet at HTTP://WWW.NA obtain a pre-publication copy from the Office of News and Public Information (contacts listed above).

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