



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

June 2, 2022

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

RE: Request to Extend Public Comment Period for the Draft IRIS Toxicological Review of Formaldehyde (Inhalation)

Dear Requestor,

Thank you for your interest in EPA's draft Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Toxicological Review of Formaldehyde (Inhalation) and the upcoming independent external peer review of this assessment by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). On April 14, 2022, EPA released the draft IRIS Assessment of Formaldehyde (Inhalation) for a 60-day public comment period.

EPA's draft IRIS formaldehyde assessment provides a comprehensive systematic review of hundreds of studies on cancer and noncancer health effects. The systematic review methods used in the draft assessment are consistent with the IRIS Handbook—which NASEM indicated [in 2021](#) should “serve as a model for other EPA programs that are implementing systematic review methods.” EPA released the draft IRIS assessment in April for a 60-day public comment in advance of an external peer review to be conducted by NASEM. Consistent with the [IRIS Process](#), other Federal agencies and White House offices participated in a formal 4-week EPA-led interagency science consultation period prior to release of the draft assessment. All interagency written comments received are publicly available on the [IRIS website](#) and in the formaldehyde [docket](#). As indicated in the Federal Register Notice, on EPA's website, and on the draft assessment materials, this draft assessment is not final and does not represent, and should not be construed to represent, Agency policy or views.

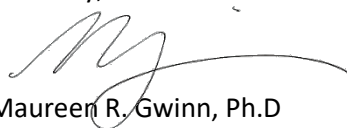
EPA has charged NASEM to consider whether the conclusions in the draft IRIS assessment are clearly presented and scientifically supported. The 2022 draft formaldehyde assessment includes an appendix that outlines the 2011 NASEM comments on the 2010 draft assessment and summarizes EPA's disposition on those comments. During the public comment period, stakeholders can provide written comments on the draft assessment materials, including the draft peer review charge questions. NASEM will convene a public meeting to discuss the draft assessment. Following the external peer review, EPA will revise the assessment. Subsequently, EPA will initiate a formal EPA-led interagency science discussion period prior to disseminating the final assessment, including final noncancer and cancer toxicity values. EPA will develop and include a response to the 2022 public and external peer review comments as an appendix to the final assessment. The upcoming independent NASEM external peer review follows established policies, procedures, and practices as outlined by [NASEM](#) and EPA's [Peer Review Handbook](#) (4th Edition, 2015).

Formaldehyde is a hazardous air pollutant present in indoor and outdoor air, and development of toxicological information on this chemical is critical to supporting Agency decisions to protect human health and the environment. In order to support timely decision-making, the standard 60-day public comment period for the draft IRIS assessment of formaldehyde will not be extended. Following the

current 60-day comment period, the public will have additional opportunities to provide comments directly to NASEM throughout the external peer review, including at an upcoming public meeting. EPA encourages all stakeholders to participate.

Again, thank you for your interest in EPA's formaldehyde activities. If you have additional questions on the IRIS assessment of formaldehyde (inhalation), please contact Dr. Kris Thayer at Thayer.Kris@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Maureen R. Gwinn, Ph.D
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Research and Development (ORD)

cc:

Wayne Cascio, Director, Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA), U.S. EPA
Kris Thayer, Division Director, Chemical and Pollutant Assessment Division, Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA), U.S. EPA
American Chemistry Council's Center for Biocide Chemistries
American Feed Industry Association
American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) and the American Wood Council (AWC)
American Veterinary Medical Association
Celanese
Composite Panel Association
EGGER Wood Products LLC
Louisiana Chemical Association
Methanol Institute
National Chicken Council
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation
Troy Corporation
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
United Egg Producers