

Date: May 27, 1997
To: NTA Wool Manufacturers Council
From: David Trumbull
RE: **Environmental Update**

EPA/INDUSTRY METALS STUDY SUPPORTS INDUSTRY POSITION

Since 1993 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the American textile industry have sought to develop a scientifically valid method of measuring the toxicity of metals in textile effluent. This has been needed as the current EPA Water Quality Criteria vastly overstate the toxicity of metals in textile dyestuffs.

Various textile and chemical industry associations, lead by the American Textile Manufacturers Institute (ATMI) have sponsored a study of metals in textile effluent. EPA contributed a significant part of the cost of this study, as did the industry groups, including NTA.

The preliminary results of that study are available in draft form. The study has largely validated the industry's position that dyestuff metals in textile effluent ought to be regulated differently than other, more bioavailable metals.

Tomorrow morning you will hear a complete update on the *EPA/Industry Textile Effluent Metals Study* presented by **Jeff Silliman** of Milliken and Company. Dr. Silliman has had extensive experience in environmental issues of concern to textile manufacturers and is a member of the ATMI committee evaluating the study results for presentation to EPA.

EPA AIR STANDARDS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require the EPA to develop Maximum Achievable Control Technology (**MACT**) standards for control of emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) from various industries. Eight textile trade associations representing 90% of U.S. textile production capacity are working together to gather data to give to EPA for use in developing the standards for textile facilities. The purpose of this activity is to assist EPA in developing standards that are appropriate to the textile industry.

NTA has supported this combined industry approach to working with EPA. In February of this year NTA sponsored a MACT Workshop in Wakefield, MA. Twelve NTA member companies have submitted data for the MACT survey which is being coordinated by ATMI.

Tomorrow afternoon you will have a opportunity to hear an update on *Clean Air Issues and MACT Standards*, given by **Sandy Perry** of Acheron Engineering Services.

Mass. Considers Banning Chlorinated Solvents

The manufacture, distribution, and use of methylene chloride, perchloroethane, trichloroethylene, and methyl chloroform (1,1,1 tri chloroethane) would be banned in Massachusetts if H.3100 is enacted into law. The bill is now being debated in the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture. NTA will publish more information on this bill as it becomes available.