

NTA Environmental News

July 1997

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, led 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.

At the NTA/AATCC Spring Technical Seminar in May, attendees had the opportunity to hear an update on the *EPA/Industry Effluent Metals Study* presented by **Jeffrey E. Silliman** of Milliken and Company.

Dr. Silliman discussed the anticipated EPA guidance entitled "Interim Guidance on Regulation of Metals in Textile Facility Effluents" as part of his presentation *Textile Effluent Metals: Regulatory Concerns*. On June 4th EPA informed ATMI that it had received substantial comments on the draft guidance from environmental groups. At a minimum this will delay issuance of the document and may result in modification of it.

Copies of Dr. Silliman's presentation are available at NTA at 617-542-8220.

MASSACHUSETTS 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 under a proposed Massachusetts law.

The Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture held a hearing on H.3100 in May. NTA will continue to follow this legislation.

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.

Those attending the NTA/AATCC Spring Technical Seminar had an opportunity to hear an update on *Clean Air Issues and MACT Standards*, given by **Sandy Perry** of Acheron Engineering Services. Copies of that presentation are available at the NTA office at 617-542-8220.

EPA OFFERS POLLUTION PREVENTION WORKSHOP

EPA, Region 4, is sponsoring a Pollution Prevention/Green Manufacturing Conference for Industry and Business in the Southeast. The conference will be held on November 17-19, 1997 in Atlanta. The conference will include presentations by industry leaders on how to reduce and even eliminate hazardous waste generation, solid waste, wastewater discharges, and air emissions. Sources of free technical assistance and information will be presented. The conference will also include presentations on ISO 14000 and Environmental Management Systems (EMS). There will be no fees for attending the conference; however advance registration is required. For information call EPA, Region 4, at 404-562-8649.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT BILL IN MASSACHUSETTS

An environmental audit bill which enjoys industry support has been filed in the Massachusetts legislature. H.3882 was the subject of a June 11 hearing in the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.