

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS
February 1992

Issue Manager: Kay Thomas Packett

The Institute and consulting scientists continued to focus in February on preparation of comments responding to the OSHA Request for Information on Indoor Air Quality, which are due at OSHA by March 20.

We also continued work on EPA initiatives and on additional ETS scientific projects.

Project and Activity Status

OSHA

*** Scientific Submissions**

- We continued work on the two new OSHA submissions, by CanTox and Feuer/Leber/Moore, addressing indoor pollutants other than ETS. We developed a new submission by consultant Gary Flamm addressing the role of VOC's in indoor air.
- We met with Acurex officials to consider alternative methods of collecting information on the potential costs of a federal ventilation standard. [

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- We continued efforts to resolve concerns about the Miller/Tollison submission addressing the potential costs of a federally-mandated smoking ban.

*** Labor Submissions**

- Labor consultants continued working with national, state and local labor unions on the response to the RFI.
- We reviewed a second draft of comments by the National Energy Management Institute.

EPA

*** Scientific Submissions**

- Layard/Switzer Project: We completed review of an analysis by Layard and Switzer regarding problems in EPA's assessment of lung cancer risk from ETS.

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- Todhunter Project: An additional planned submission to EPA, the Todhunter analysis addressing comparisons of mainstream smoke and ETS, was placed on hold pending additional product liability review.
- We attended the quarterly meeting of the EPA Science Advisory Board's Indoor Air Quality/Total Human Exposure Committee to monitor a report by EPA staff member Steven Bayard on the Agency's progress in re-drafting the ETS risk assessment, and reported on Bayard's presentation to the Executive Committee and the EPA/OSHA Task Force.
- Institute consultant Max Layard completed and sent to Bayard a letter enclosing the analysis he prepared in response to the OSHA RFI.

General

- * **ASHRAE Standard:** The Institute hosted a meeting of member company representatives to review developments regarding the ASHRAE ventilation standard and agree upon an industry strategy. We agreed to host similar meetings on an as-needed basis.
- * **NIOSH CIB:** We began developing a response to the most recent communication from NIOSH defending the analysis of workplace lung cancer risk contained in its Current Intelligence Bulletin on ETS.
- * **OSHA Reform Legislation:** We monitored a hearing held by the House Education and Labor Committee on OSHA reform legislation, and provided reports to interested member company representatives.
- * **Publications/Responses to Publications**
 - **HBI Study:** HBI completed and submitted its response to a letter from EPA staff member James Repace taking exception to the HBI study of ETS in 585 office buildings, which was published in the January issue of Environment International.
 - **Holcomb Ventilation Costs/Benefits Study:** Holcomb completed revisions to his paper analyzing the costs and benefits of increasing ventilation rates and submitted the revised draft to the ASHRAE Journal.
- * **Conferences, Meetings and Presentations**

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- IOHC Presentation: Consultant Max Layard submitted an abstract of a paper for presentation at the Ninth International Symposium on Epidemiology in Occupational Health, sponsored by NIOSH and the International Occupational Health Conference and scheduled for September, 1992. The title of the presentation is "Lung Cancer and Workplace Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke."
- * Briefings: We conducted ETS briefings for Alan Perlman of Kraft/General Foods and Lisa Eddington of the Tobacco Growers Information Council.

Needs Attention Next Month

Finalize outstanding OSHA RFI projects.

Obtain drafts of scientific projects authorized but not completed because of activity on OSHA RFI projects.

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