



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Air Resources Board

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 20, 2007

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to let you know that a draft staff report entitled "Environmental Impact Assessment of Selected Halogenated Chemicals" has been released for public review and is available online at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/reactivity/reactivity.htm>.

The draft report was prepared in response to requests to grant volatile organic compound (VOC) exemptions in the California Consumer Products Regulations for several halogenated chemicals. Air Resources Board (ARB) staff developed the draft report in coordination with staff from the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control. The report evaluates the possible impacts of increased use of the halogenated chemicals on the atmosphere, water, soil, economy, and public health, should VOC exemptions be granted. The key recommendations from the report are summarized below:

- Staff is recommending that a VOC exemption for the hydrofluoroether HFE-7200 (two isomers) be granted. Based on the evaluation, adverse environmental or health impacts were not identified for HFE-7200. Further, HFE-7200 has a relatively low global warming potential (GWP) of 59 when compared to the likely alternatives.
- Staff does not recommend a VOC exemption for the hydrochlorofluorocarbons HCFC-225ca or HCFC-225cb due to their potential adverse health effects, stratospheric ozone depletion potential, and high GWP.
- VOC exemptions are also not recommended for the hydrofluorocarbons HFC-245fa, HFC-365mfc, HFC-43-10mee, and for the hydrofluoroether HFE-7100 (two isomers) because these substances are also potent greenhouse gases.
- California's air pollution control/air quality management districts are encouraged to consider this evaluation and the associated concerns prior to providing a VOC exemption or continuing a previously granted exemption for the substances considered in this evaluation, as they update their applicable rules.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

September 20, 2007
Page 2

If you have comments, please submit them to:

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The comment period for this report will close October 19, 2007. After considering the comments and making revisions, the report will be finalized. This report will serve as a basis for potential amendments to the VOC definition in the Consumer Products Regulations. Amendments to the Consumer Products Regulations are scheduled to be considered by the Board at a public hearing in June 2008. Proposed amendments to the Consumer Products Regulations, including possible VOC exemptions, will be discussed in future public meetings. The time and location of the meetings will be announced on ARB's website as well as sent to the applicable list serves.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 322-7077 or rcorey@arb.ca.gov, or Dr. Dongmin Luo at (916) 324-8496 or dluo@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Corey
Assistant Chief
Research Division

cc: Dongmin Luo, Ph.D., P.E.
Manager
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