



. Magazine

. Latest News

. Sections

. Multimedia

. Blogs

. Subscribe

. About C&amp;EN

## Latest News

Home » Latest News » Dioxins Reassessed

May 21, 2010 Updated Monday, May 24, 2010, 3:00 p.m.DOI: 10.1021/cen052810125938

### Dioxins Reassessed

**EPA: Draft report reaffirms that chemicals are carcinogenic, sets safe dose for noncancerous effects**

**[Cheryl Hogue](#)**

Text Size **A**

A new draft reassessment of dioxins by the **Environmental Protection Agency** takes into account both cancerous and noncancerous health effects of this group of compounds. Released today, the long-awaited draft reassessment would also, for the first time, set a safe daily dose for the most toxic form of dioxin: 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD)

Once finalized, the reassessment will affect a host of regulatory decisions affecting a group of compounds collectively called dioxins, including TCDD, polychlorinated biphenyls, and polychlorinated dibenzofurans. Most notable will be the amount of cleanup needed for river sediments contaminated with dioxins. The reassessment could also affect rules governing air and water pollution, as well as waste disposal.

For TCDD, the draft report would set the safe daily dose at  $7 \times 10^{-10}$  mg per kg of body weight per day. This dose is designed to protect people from adverse reproductive and developmental effects. The draft report would also

Email this article to a friend

Print this article

Email the editor

Share...

Share on Facebook

Tweet This Story

Save To del.icio.us

Digg This Story

Save to Reddit

Stumble it

#### Related Stories

- [EPA's Dioxin Review Is Criticized](#)
- [EPA Intervenes In Dioxin Cleanup](#)

classify TCDD as carcinogenic to humans.

The draft report updates the agency's first official risk estimates for dioxins, which were set in 1984 and are based solely on cancer concerns. The agency began reassessing those numbers in 1991 and has produced several drafts that suggest dioxins have health effects other than cancer.

In 2006, the National Research Council said EPA needed to refine its draft assessment by spelling out what is and isn't known about the risks from exposure to dioxins (**C&EN, July 17, 2006, page 9**). In the latest draft, EPA says it analyzed parts of its dose-response assessment for dioxins but "concludes that a comprehensive uncertainty analysis is infeasible at this time."

EPA's Science Advisory Board will review the draft in July. EPA says it will update the draft to incorporate comments from the advisers and the public. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson has directed the agency to finalize dioxin reassessment by the end of 2010 (**C&EN, June 1, 2009, page 5**).

The draft is available through [cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=222203](http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=222203).

## Topics Covered

### dioxin

#### Latest News

July 20, 2010

#### Linking Temperature Rise To Effects

Climate Change: Study estimates per-degree impact on precipitation, crop yields.

July 19, 2010

#### Streams of Noxiousness

Water Pollutants: Scientists develop new way to proactively monitor groundwater contaminants in city streams.

#### Build Your Own Enzyme

Biochemistry: Scientists create the first intermolecular Diels-Alderase.

#### Moving Forward On Algal Biofuels

Alternative Energy: ExxonMobil, Synthetic Genomics facility will help optimize algal fuel production.

#### Catalysis By Graphene Oxide

Graphene intermediate makes ketones and aldehydes from alcohols, alkynes, and olefins.

#### Final Round Of ARPA-E Grants

Research: Energy Department issues \$92 million in frontier grants.

Chemical & Engineering News

ISSN 0009-2347

Copyright © 2010 American Chemical Society

 <b>Email this article to a friend</b>	 <b>Print this article</b>
 <b>Email the editor</b>	
 <b>Share on Facebook</b>	 <b>Tweet This Story</b>
 <b>Save To del.icio.us</b>	 <b>Digg This Story</b>
 <b>Save to Reddit</b>	 <b>Stumble it</b>

## Services & Tools

- . [Bookmark](#)
- . [Multimedia](#)

### ACS Resources



» [Join ACS](#)

Join more than 161,000

- . [Blog](#)
- . [RSS Feeds](#)
- . [Newsletters](#)

ACS is the leading employment source for recruiting scientific professionals. ACS Careers and C&EN Classifieds provide employers direct access to scientific talent both in print and online. [Jobseekers](#) | [Employers](#)

professionals in the chemical sciences world-wide, as a member of the American Chemical Society.  
» [Join Now!](#)



. [Magazine](#)

- o [Current Issue](#)
- o [Back Issues](#)

- o [Cover Stories](#)

. [Latest News](#)

- o [News](#)
- o [Most Popular](#)

- o [News Archive](#)

. [Sections](#)

- o [ACS News](#)
- o [Business](#)

- o [Career & Employment](#)

- o [Government & Policy](#)

- o [Science & Technology](#)

- o [Special Features](#)

- o [View All Sections](#)

. [Multimedia](#)

- o [Videos](#)
- o [Photo Galleries](#)

- o [Audio/Podcasts](#)

. [About C&EN](#)

- o [C&EN Staff](#)
- o [Contact C&EN](#)

- o [Advertising](#)

. [Blog](#)

- o [C&ENtral Science](#)

. [Subscribe](#)

- o [How To Subscribe](#)

- o [Email Newsletter](#)

- o [RSS Feeds](#)

Site Map | Help | Login

© 2010 American Chemical Society

ACS | Journals | Chemical Abstracts Service | Membership | Meetings