

The proposed Order will expire in 20 years.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; American Health Information Community Meeting

**ACTION:** Meeting announcement.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the meeting date for the 25th meeting of the American Health Information Community in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., App.) The American Health Information Community will advise the Secretary and recommend specific actions to achieve a common interoperability framework for health information technology (IT).

*Meeting Date:* November 12, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. (Eastern)

**ADDRESSES:** Hubert H. Humphrey building (200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201), Room 800.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will include updates on the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel, the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology, and hospital health information technology adoption rates. Final reports on the Electronic Health Records, Chronic Care, Consumer Empowerment, Quality, and Personalized Healthcare Workgroups will also be presented. Finally, an update on the AHIC Successor organization will be heard.

For further information, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic.html>.

A Web cast of the Community meeting will be available on the NIH Web site at: <http://www.videocast.nih.gov/>.

If you have special needs for the meeting, please contact (202) 690-7151.

Dated: October 15, 2008.

Judith Sparrow,

Director, American Health Information Community, Office of Programs and Coordination, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); National Toxicology Program (NTP); Request for Information (NOT-ES-09-001): Ongoing Research and Research Needs for Biological Effects of Exposure to Bisphenol A (BPA)

**AGENCY:** National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**ACTION:** Request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT) and the NTP are seeking input on a number of key research areas that have been identified in recent evaluations of bisphenol A (BPA). Information provided will be used to help focus future research and testing activities on BPA. This Request for Information (RFI) is for planning purposes only and should not be construed as a funding opportunity or grant program. The NIEHS and NTP welcome input from the lay public, environmental health researchers, healthcare professionals, educators, policy makers, industry, and others with an interest in BPA.

**DATES:** Please respond online at the Bisphenol A Request for Information Web page by December 1, 2008, at <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/rfibpa>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Other correspondence regarding this RFI should be directed to either (1) Dr. Jerry Heindel, DERT Program Administrator, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-23, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (phone) 919-541-0781, (e-mail) [heindelj@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:heindelj@niehs.nih.gov) or (2) Dr. Paul Foster, NTP Acting Toxicology Branch Chief, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-34, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (phone) 919-541-2513, (e-mail) [foster2@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:foster2@niehs.nih.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

The NTP is an interagency program whose mission is to evaluate agents of public health concern by developing and applying tools of modern toxicology and molecular biology. The NTP was established as a cooperative effort to (1) Coordinate toxicology testing programs within the federal government, (2) strengthen the science base in toxicology, (3) develop improved testing methods, and (4) provide information about potentially toxic chemicals to health, regulatory, and research agencies, scientific and medical communities, and the public. To meet these goals, NTP designs and conducts

large-scale laboratory animal research and testing programs and analyzes and reports its findings to assess potential hazards to human health from exposure to environmental agents. The NTP also carries out formal review and literature analysis activities.

The NIEHS mission is to understand the complex relationship between environmental risk factors and human biology within affected individuals and populations and to use this knowledge to prevent illness, reduce disease, and promote health. To accomplish this, the NIEHS supports research and professional development in environmental health sciences, environmental clinical research, and environmental public health. These extramural research and development activities are managed through NIEHS/DERT.

Recently, both the NTP and NIEHS/DERT conducted assessments related to understanding the potential human health and environmental risks posed by BPA. The NTP evaluation was conducted through its Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR) and focused on whether current exposures may pose health risks to human reproduction and development. The final results of this evaluation were released on September 3, 2008, as the NTP-CERHR Monograph on Bisphenol A. The monograph and details of this evaluation are available at <http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov/chemicals/bisphenol/bisphenol.html>. The NIEHS workshop, "Bisphenol A: An Examination of the Relevance of Ecological, *In Vitro* and Laboratory Animal Studies for Assessing Risks to Human Health" (for consensus statement see vom Saal *et al.*, *Reproductive Toxicol.* 2007. 24:131-138) was co-sponsored with a number of other organizations and was broader in scope compared to the NTP-CERHR evaluation as it included consideration of ecological effects and human health effects not directly related to development or reproduction.

The NTP and NIEHS review activities resulted in a number of research recommendations to better characterize the sources and levels of human exposures to BPA and to help determine what, if any, adverse health effects might result from such exposures. Similarly, a number of research needs have been identified by the Food and Drug Administration in its draft assessment of BPA in food contact applications (<http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/oc08.html#Scienceboard> see "Science Board to the Food and Drug