

Information also is available on the NCVHS home page of the HHS Web site: <http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/>, where further information including an agenda will be posted when available.

Should you require reasonable accommodation, please contact the CDC Office of Equal Employment Opportunity on (301) 458-4EEO (4336) as soon as possible.

Dated: February 3, 2009.

**James Scanlon,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Data Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics: Meeting**

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the following advisory committee meeting.

*Name:* National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), Populations Subcommittee Meeting.

*Time and Date:* February 27, 2009 8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

*Place:* Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 505A, Washington, DC 20201.

*Status:* Open.

*Purpose:* The Populations Subcommittee will hear testimony from invited experts on Federal data capacity to support health policy in the area of modeling health insurance data, to include coverage, access, utilization, quality, and cost of care. The meeting will conclude with a roundtable discussion between the Populations Subcommittee and speakers.

*Contact Person for More Information:* Substantive program information as well as summaries of meetings and a roster of committee members may be obtained from Debbie Jackson, lead staff for Populations Subcommittee, NCVHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 2339, Hyattsville, Maryland, 20782, telephone (301) 458-4614 or Marjorie S. Greenberg, Executive Secretary, NCVHS, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 2402, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone (301) 458-4245. Information also is available on the NCVHS home page of the HHS Web site: <http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/>, where further information including an agenda will be posted when available.

Should you require reasonable accommodation, please contact the CDC Office of Equal Employment Opportunity on (301) 458-4EEO (4336) as soon as possible.

Dated: February 4, 2009.

**James Scanlon,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Data Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Toxicology Program (NTP); Report on Carcinogens (RoC); Request for Public Comments on the RoC Expert Panel's Recommendation on Listing Status for Cobalt-Tungsten Carbide Powders and Hard Metals in the 12th RoC and the Scientific Justification for the Recommendation**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The NTP invites public comment on the recommendation from an expert panel on the listing status for cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals in the 12th RoC and the scientific justification for the recommendation. The recommendation and scientific justification for cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals are available electronically in Part B of the Expert Panel Report (<http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/29682>, see Expert Panel Report Part B) or in printed text from the RoC Center (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** below). The RoC Center convened a seven-member expert panel of scientists, plus one technical scientific expert, from the public and private sectors on December 9-10, 2008. The panel was asked (1) to apply the RoC listing criteria to the relevant scientific evidence and make a recommendation regarding listing status (*i.e., known to be a human carcinogen, reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen, or not to list*) for cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals in the 12th RoC and (2) to provide the scientific justification for the recommendation.

**DATES:** The Expert Panel Report (Part B) for cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals will be available for public comment by February 4, 2009. Written comments should be submitted by March 30, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Dr. Ruth Lunn, Director, RoC Center [NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD K2-14, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, FAX: 919-541-0144, or [lunn@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:lunn@niehs.nih.gov). Courier address: Report on Carcinogens

Center, NIEHS, 530 Davis Drive, Room 2006, Durham, NC 27713].

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ruth Lunn, RoC Center, 919-316-4637 or [lunn@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:lunn@niehs.nih.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Cobalt-tungsten carbide hard metals are composites of carbides (including tungsten carbide alone or in combination with small amounts of other carbides) with a metallic cobalt binder, pressed into a compact, solid form at high temperatures by a process known as "sintering." Cobalt-tungsten carbide hard metals are used primarily in cutting tools. Cobalt-tungsten carbide hard metals are manufactured and used in the United States. Occupational exposure to cobalt-tungsten carbide hard-metal particles can occur during hard-metal production, recycling of hard-metal products, and grinding and sharpening of hard-metal tools.

As part of the RoC review process (available at <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/29353>), the NTP announced the availability of the draft background document for cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals (73FR60288), invited public comments on the draft background document, and announced the cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals expert panel meeting. The RoC Center convened a seven-member expert panel of scientists from the public and private sectors to evaluate cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals. An additional, non-voting, expert scientist was also in attendance to respond to technical concerns from the panel. The expert panel met on December 9-10, 2008, in a public forum at the Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The panel was charged to peer review the draft background document for cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals and then to make a recommendation on its listing status in the 12th RoC and to provide a scientific justification for that recommendation. Details about the meeting, including public comments received and the expert panel reports, are available on the RoC Web site (<http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/29682>). The expert panel report for cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals contains two parts: Part A has the peer-review comments on the draft background document and Part B has the recommendation on listing status and its scientific justification. The expert panel recommended that cobalt-tungsten carbide powders and hard metals be listed in the 12th RoC as