

Health and Human Services, 12225
Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland
20852.

Comment Date: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time
on March 30, 2021.

Dated: March 5, 2021.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021-05070 Filed 3-10-21; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-ORD-2019-0504; FRL-10021-30-
ORD]

Availability of the Systematic Review Protocol for the Inorganic Mercury Salts Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Assessment

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public comment
period.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA) is announcing a 30-day
public comment period associated with
release of the Systematic Review
Protocol for the Inorganic Mercury Salts
IRIS Assessment. This document
communicates the rationale for
conducting the assessment of inorganic
mercury salts, describes screening
criteria to identify relevant literature,
outlines the approach for evaluating
study quality, and describes the
methods for dose-response analysis.

DATES: The 30-day public comment
period begins March 11, 2021 and ends
April 12, 2021. Comments must be
received on or before April 12, 2021.

ADDRESSES: The Systematic Review
Protocol for Inorganic Mercury Salts
will be available via the internet on the
IRIS website at <https://www.epa.gov/iris>
and in the public docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket ID: EPA-
HQ-ORD-2019-0504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For
information on the docket, contact the
ORD Docket at the EPA Headquarters
Docket Center; email: Docket_ORD@epa.gov.

For technical information on the
protocol, contact Mr. Dahnish Shams,
Center for Public Health &
Environmental Assessment; email:
shams.dahnish@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background Information on the IRIS Program and Systematic Review Protocols

EPA's IRIS Program is a human health
assessment program that evaluates

quantitative and qualitative information
on effects that may result from exposure
to chemicals found in the environment.

Through the IRIS Program, EPA
provides high quality science-based
human health assessments to support
the Agency's regulatory activities and
decisions to protect public health.

As part of developing a draft IRIS
assessment, EPA presents a methods
document, referred to as the protocol,
for conducting a chemical-specific
systematic review of the available
scientific literature. EPA is seeking
public comment on components of the
protocol including the described
strategies for literature searches, criteria
for study inclusion or exclusion,
considerations for evaluating study
methods, information management for
extracting data, approaches for synthesis
within and across lines of evidence, and
methods for derivation of toxicity
values. Additionally, key science issues
that warrant consideration in this
assessment are identified in Section 6.
The protocol serves to inform the
subsequent development of the draft
assessment and is made available to the
public. EPA may update the protocol
based on the evaluation of the literature,
and any updates will be posted to the
docket and on the IRIS website.

II. How To Submit Technical Comments to the Docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>

Submit your comments, identified by
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2019-
0504 for inorganic mercury salts, by one
of the following methods:

- www.regulations.gov: Follow the
on-line instructions for submitting
comments.
- *Email:* Docket_ORD@epa.gov.
- *Fax:* 202-566-9744. Due to COVID-
19, there may be a delay in processing
comments submitted by fax.
- *Mail:* U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center
(ORD Docket), Mail Code: 28221T, 1200
Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington,
DC 20460. The phone number is 202-
566-1752. Due to COVID-19, there may
be a delay in processing comments
submitted by mail.

For information on visiting the EPA
Docket Center Public Reading Room,
visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>. Due
to public health concerns related to
COVID-19, the EPA Docket Center and
Reading Room may be closed to the
public with limited exceptions. The
telephone number for the Public
Reading Room is 202-566-1744. The
public can submit comments via
www.Regulations.gov or email.

Instructions: Direct your comments to
EPA-HQ-ORD-2019-0504 for inorganic

mercury salts. Please ensure that your
comments are submitted within the
specified comment period. Comments
received after the closing date will be
marked "late," and may only be
considered if time permits. It is EPA's
policy to include all comments it
receives in the public docket without
change and to make the comments
available online at <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any
personal information provided, unless a
comment includes information claimed
to be Confidential Business Information
(CBI) or other information for which
disclosure is restricted by statute. Do
not submit information through <https://www.regulations.gov> or email that you
consider to be CBI or otherwise
protected. The <https://www.regulations.gov> website is an
"anonymous access" system, which
means EPA will not know your identity
or contact information unless you
provide it in the body of your comment.
If you send an email comment directly
to EPA without going through <https://www.regulations.gov>, your email
address will be automatically captured
and included as part of the comment
that is placed in the public docket and
made available on the internet. If you
submit an electronic comment, EPA
recommends that you include your
name and other contact information in
the body of your comment and with any
disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA
cannot read your comment due to
technical difficulties and cannot contact
you for clarification, EPA may not be
able to consider your comment.
Electronic files should avoid the use of
special characters, any form of
encryption, and be free of any defects or
viruses. For additional information
about EPA's public docket, visit the EPA
Docket Center homepage at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

Docket: Documents in the docket are
listed in the <https://www.regulations.gov> index. Although
listed in the index, some information is
not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other
information whose disclosure is
restricted by statute. Certain other
materials, such as copyrighted material,
are publicly available only in hard copy.
Publicly available docket materials are
available either electronically in <https://www.regulations.gov> or as a hard copy
at the ORD Docket in the EPA
Headquarters Docket Center.

Wayne Cascio,

*Director, Center for Public Health &
Environmental Assessment.*

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