

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-11976-01-OW]

Acute Aquatic Life Screening Values for 6PPD and 6PPD-Quinone in Freshwater

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of Acute Freshwater Aquatic Life Screening Values for 6PPD (N-(1,3-Dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine) and its transformation product 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q; N-(1,3-Dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine quinone). The EPA developed these screening values as information under Clean Water Act (CWA) section 304(a)(2)(B) on factors for the protection of aquatic life. States and authorized Tribes may consider these screening values in their water quality protection programs. The screening values for acute exposures to 6PPD and 6PPD-q in freshwater are 8,900 nanograms per liter (ng/L) and 11 ng/L, respectively. Consistent with CWA section 304(a)(2), the EPA expects to update these screening values from time to time as new information becomes available. This announcement is in accordance with CWA section 304(a)(3), which directs the EPA to publish information developed under 304(a)(2) in the **Federal Register** and make it available to States, authorized Tribes, and the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amanda Jarvis, Health and Ecological Criteria Division, Office of Water (Mail Code 4304T), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 566-1163; email address: jarvis.amanda@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. What are 6PPD and 6PPD-quinone and how do they affect aquatic life?

6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q) is a breakdown product of the rubber-tire

antioxidant compound 6PPD (N-(1,3-Dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine). Detections of 6PPD and 6PPD-q in waterways across the United States and elsewhere indicate that they are present in aquatic systems and may present a potential risk to aquatic organisms. Although “urban stream syndrome” or “urban runoff mortality syndrome” (URMS) was first reported in Puget Sound during monitoring of urban streams between 1999 and 2001, URMS was not linked to 6PPD-q until 2021 by Tian et al. (2021). URMS describes the death of adult salmon fish (particularly coho salmon) returning from the ocean to urban waterways and was first reported in Puget Sound (Washington, USA) during monitoring of urban streams between 1999 and 2001.

II. What are aquatic life screening values?

The EPA derived these screening values in accordance with section 304(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to provide States, authorized Tribes, and stakeholders with the best available information on the toxicity of 6PPD and 6PPD-q to aquatic organisms. They are distinct from national recommended ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) issued in accordance with the provisions of section 304(a)(1) of the CWA for protection of aquatic life from toxic chemicals. Empirical data are very limited for 6PPD and 6PPD-q and do not fulfill the EPA’s data requirements for deriving national recommended AWQC. Further, much of the available data were developed using aquatic toxicity testing approaches that do not fully conform with EPA’s 850 Ecological Effects Test Guidelines or other standard test guidelines, such as those of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). These deviations from standard testing methods made the derived toxicity values and the derived screening values more uncertain than national recommended AWQC. These screening values are based solely on

data and scientific judgments about the relationship between 6PPD and 6PPD-q concentrations and potential effects to aquatic organisms.

What are EPA’s 6PPD and 6PPD-q aquatic life screening values in freshwater?

The EPA’s 6PPD and 6PPD-q aquatic life screening value documents provide a critical review of 6PPD and 6PPD-q toxicity data, quantify the toxicity of these chemicals to aquatic life based on available data, and provide separate acute screening values for 6PPD and 6PPD-q.

Under CWA section 304(a)(2)(B), the EPA develops, from time to time, information “on the factors necessary for the protection and propagation of shellfish, fish, and wildlife.” The EPA developed the 6PPD and 6PPD-q acute screening values (Table 1 of this document) to support protection of most freshwater aquatic communities. The EPA’s acute screening values are the maximum concentrations of 6PPD and 6PPD-q (individually, not in mixtures), with associated frequency and duration specifications, that are expected to support protection of aquatic life from acute effects in freshwaters based on currently available science (see Table 1 of this document). There were insufficient data for 6PPD and 6PPD-q to derive chronic screening values in freshwaters, and acute and chronic values in estuarine/marine waters.

In accordance with CWA section 304(a)(2)(B), the acute freshwater screening values for 6PPD and 6PPD-q are provided only as information for States and authorized Tribes that they may consider for the protection of aquatic life as part of their water quality protection programs. The development of aquatic life screening values as information under CWA section 304(a)(2) does not impose legally binding requirements on the EPA or the regulated community. Further, the aquatic life screening values are not regulations and do not substitute for the CWA or the EPA’s regulations.

TABLE 1—RECOMMENDED AQUATIC LIFE ACUTE SCREENING VALUES FOR FRESHWATER (ng/L)

	6PPD	6PPD-q
	8,900	11
Duration	1 hour	
Frequency	Not to be exceeded more than once in three years on average	

Bruno Pigott,

Assistant Administrator.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA–HQ–OPPT–2024–0114; FRL–11809–02–OCSPP]

1,1-Dichloroethane and 1,2-Dichloroethane; Peer Review of Draft Documents by the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC); Request for Comments on Experts Being Considered as ad hoc Peer Reviewers

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the “Agency”) is announcing the change in the peer review mechanism from the letter peer review to a Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) peer review; the addition of the draft human health hazard assessment for 1,2-dichloroethane for peer review; the availability of and solicitation of comment on the list of candidates under consideration for selection as *ad hoc* peer reviewers that will assist the SACC with their peer review of the Agency’s draft risk evaluation of 1,1-dichloroethane and human health hazard assessment of 1,2-dichloroethane. The list of candidates provides the names and biographical sketches of all interested and available candidates identified from the responses to the call for nominations and other sources. Public comments on these candidates will assist the Agency in selecting *ad hoc* peer reviewers to assist the SACC with the identified peer review.

DATES: Submit your comments on or before June 28, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA–HQ–OPPT–2024–0114, through the *Federal eRulemaking Portal* at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Additional instructions on commenting and visiting the docket, along with more information about dockets generally, is available at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Designated Federal Official (DFO) is Alie Muneer, Mission Support Division (7602M), Office of Program Support, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency; telephone number: (202) 564–6369; email address: muneer.alie@epa.gov; or call the SACC main office at (202) 564–8450 or send an email at email address: sacc@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. What action is the Agency taking?

The Agency is seeking public comments on scientific and technical experts that EPA is considering for service as *ad hoc* peer reviewers that will assist the SACC with the peer review of the Agency’s evaluation of the draft risk evaluation of 1,1-dichloroethane and the human health hazard assessment of 1,2-dichloroethane. The Agency requested nominations of *ad hoc* expert reviewers in the **Federal Register** of March 21, 2024 (88 FR 20201 (FRL–11809–01–OCSPP)).

B. What is the Agency’s authority for taking this action?

EPA established the SACC in 2016 in accordance with TSCA, 15 U.S.C. 2625(o), to provide independent advice and expert consultation with respect to the scientific and technical aspects of issues relating to the implementation of TSCA. The SACC operates in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. 10, and supports activities under TSCA, 15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*, the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA), 42 U.S.C. 13101 *et seq.*, and other applicable statutes.

C. Does this action apply to me?

This action is directed to the public in general and may be of particular interest to those involved in the manufacture, processing, distribution, and disposal of the subject chemical substance, and/or those interested in the assessment of risks involving chemical substances and mixtures regulated under TSCA.

D. What should I consider as I prepare my comments for EPA?

Do not electronically submit any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Copyrighted material will not be posted without explicit permission of the copyright holder. Members of the public should also be aware that personal contact

information, if included in any written comments, may be posted on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov>. If your comment contains any information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected, please contact the DFO listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** to obtain special instructions before submitting that information.

E. How can I stay informed about SACC activities?

You may subscribe to the following listserv for alerts regarding this and other SACC-related activities: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USAEPAOPPT/subscriber/new?topic_id=USAEPAOPPT_101.

II. Background

EPA is planning this SACC peer review of the Agency’s draft risk evaluation of 1,1-dichloroethane and human health hazard assessment of 1,2-dichloroethane. As part of the TSCA risk evaluation for 1,1-dichloroethane, EPA is assessing 1,1-dichloroethane conditions of use (COUs) (*e.g.*, processing as a reactant, processing for repackaging, processing for recycling, commercial use for laboratory chemicals, etc.). EPA is providing for public comment and peer review of the TSCA human health hazard assessment for 1,2-dichloroethane because EPA has identified 1,2-dichloroethane as an analog for 1,1-dichloroethane to support a limited non-cancer and cancer human health hazard 1,1-dichloroethane data set. Both 1,1-dichloroethane and 1,2-dichloroethane data sets were used wherever appropriate to conduct the dose-response assessment and identify points-of-departure (PODs) for the risk evaluation of 1,1-dichloroethane. Therefore, simultaneous issuance for public comment and peer review of both the full 1,1-dichloroethane draft risk evaluation (hazard and exposure assessments) and the 1,2-dichloroethane draft human health hazard assessment will provide the public and peer reviewers with the full context of the human health hazard evaluations for both chemicals.

Recommendations from the SACC peer review of the draft documents will be considered in the development of the TSCA risk evaluations for both chemical substances and may inform other EPA efforts related to the assessment and regulation of 1,1-dichloroethane and 1,2-dichloroethane. The Agency will be seeking SACC review of its data analyses and methodologies relevant to human health hazard and exposure analyses that have not been previously peer reviewed.