

ChemView: EPA's Web Tool for TSCA Chemicals

Sheila Canavan, Associate Director, Chemical Control Division
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Presenter biography

Sheila Canavan is the Associate Director of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Chemical Control Division in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. The division leads activities for the assessment and management of a wide range of industrial chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Previously, she led communications efforts for EPA's program to reduce risks to lead, PCBs, mercury and asbestos and directed a pollution prevention policy group. She also spent ten years working for the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources. She holds a law degree from the George Washington University National Law Center.

Presentation abstract

EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention designed, created and implemented an innovative conceptual approach to improve chemical safety and streamline access to information on chemicals regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) by developing a publicly-accessible, easy-to-use online database called ChemView (www.epa.gov/chemview). ChemView allows users to view information in both summary form and in detail, including links to documents provided to EPA by the regulated community and others, significantly enhancing access to chemical information in a one-stop shop venue. The information made available in ChemView will be useful for assessing exposures to chemicals, as well as the hazards chemicals pose to human health and the environment. The database can help businesses, individuals and others make more informed decisions about the chemicals they use. Through ChemView, EPA is now able to provide downstream users of chemicals, those much closer to the consumer, with easy access to information they can use to make safer chemical choices.

The initial phase focused on providing easy access to thousands of documents previously accessible only via paper dockets or EPA's files. This information includes:

- data submitted to EPA by industry (e.g., health and safety data);
- EPA-developed assessments of chemicals (e.g., hazard characterizations and safer alternative assessments);
- EPA regulatory actions (e.g., Significant New Use Rules); and
- manufacturing (including import), processing, use and release data collected by EPA (e.g., Chemical Data Reporting and Toxics Release Inventory data).

The project entailed identifying, organizing, and extracting human health, ecotoxicological, environmental fate and product chemistry data to populate ChemView so users could access at a glance, summary and in-depth information of their choosing. Pre-defined templates were developed to capture key details from source documents, including information on chemistry, ecotoxicology, and human health endpoints. Summary results provide links to original studies or documents which contain more detailed information. ChemView also links to other Agency databases with key information on TSCA chemicals including EPA's Integrated Risk Information System, and Toxics Release Inventory database. ChemView does not contain any Confidential Business Information (CBI). While the current version of ChemView contains a substantial amount of information, when fully populated, ChemView will contain data for thousands of chemicals regulated under TSCA. EPA will be continually adding chemicals, data, assessments, functionality and links to source documents.