



Toxic Substances Control Act - Update on Implementation of 2016 Amendments

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Presenter biography

Dr. Tala Henry has been with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for over 24 years. She is currently Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics where she leads assessment and management of the health and environmental hazards, exposures and risks of new and existing chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Much of Dr. Henry's professional experience with EPA has been as a Toxicologist; working in a variety of areas, including research on the toxicity of chemicals, risk assessments for hazardous waste sites under RCRA and CERCLA, and development of Water Quality Criteria under the Clean Water Act. Dr. Henry has also served as the United States representative and technical expert in several international chemical assessment and management areas, including in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and United Nations Stockholm Convention. Dr. Tala Henry received a B.A. in Biology from the College of St. Scholastica, a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Minnesota and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Presentation abstract

On June 22, 2016 the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act was signed into law, thereby amending the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976. The amendments brought extensive changes to how EPA evaluates, regulates, and manages chemicals in commerce. Under the new chemicals program, amended TSCA now requires EPA to make affirmative findings with respect to all submitted pre-manufacture notices. To meet these new requirements, EPA continues to identify ways of leaning and improving this process to conduct risk assessment and risk management of new chemicals within the 90-days mandated by TSCA. The 2016 amendments to TSCA also require EPA to evaluate the safety of existing chemicals (i.e., those already in the marketplace) through a three-staged process of prioritization, risk evaluation and, where warranted, risk management. In June of 2017, EPA finalized the three required rules that define the framework for the existing chemicals program. Currently, EPA is in the process of conducting risk evaluations for the initial 10 chemicals and expects to begin the prioritization process for the next group of 20 chemicals for risk evaluation in 2019. Additional implementation efforts include, but are not limited to: updates to how the Agency treats confidential business information, updating the TSCA chemical inventory into active and inactive categories, implementation of a new systematic review process, and finalization and implementation of a Strategic Plan to promote non-vertebrate test methods. This presentation will provide an overview of EPA's progress in implementing amended TSCA over the past two years.