



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 5, 2021

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to the Planned Corrective Actions for Office of Inspector General Report No. 21-P-0129, *EPA Should Conduct New Residual Risk and Technology Reviews for Chloroprene- and Ethylene Oxide-Emitting Source Categories to Protect Human Health*, issued May 6, 2021

FROM: Sean W. O'Donnell 

TO: Joseph Goffman, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation

Thank you for your July 7, 2021 memorandum, which supplements your office's March 5, 2021 response to the subject draft report. However, based on the information and supporting documentation provided, we do not agree with the Agency's planned corrective actions, and Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 remain unresolved. The remaining recommendation was previously resolved.

In Recommendation 1, we recommended that the Office of Air and Radiation develop and implement an internal control process with specific criteria to determine whether and when new residual risk reviews of existing National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, or NESHAPs, and uncontrolled emission sources are needed to incorporate new risk information that demonstrates that an air pollutant is more toxic than previously determined. The Agency commits to developing an internal control process, but does not commit to developing specific criteria to determine whether and when new residual risk reviews will be needed when new risk information demonstrates higher toxicity than previously determined.

In Recommendation 2, we recommended that the Office of Air and Radiation conduct new residual risk reviews for Group I polymers and resins that cover neoprene production, synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry, polyether polyols production, commercial sterilizers, and hospital sterilizers using the new risk values for chloroprene and ethylene oxide and revise the corresponding NESHAPs, as needed. The Agency's response does not commit to conducting new residual risk reviews for the above source categories.

In Recommendation 3, we recommended that the Office of Air and Radiation revise NESHAPs for chemical manufacturing area sources to regulate ethylene oxide and conduct a residual risk review to ensure that the public is not exposed to unacceptable risks. The Agency does not commit to revising NESHAPs for chemical manufacturing area sources to regulate ethylene oxide or to conducting a residual risk review to address unacceptable risks.

We consider these recommendations unresolved. The Agency should follow the dispute resolution process, defined in EPA Manual 2750.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epa.gov/oig.

cc: Elizabeth Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
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