

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

EMERGING CONTAMINANTS IN THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT: RISK AND REGULATORY PERSPECTIVES

A workshop sponsored by:

Society for Risk Analysis, Research Triangle Chapter

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Carolinas Chapter

October 3-4, 2002

Toxicology Building

NC State University, Centennial Campus

Raleigh, NC

Recently, environmental chemists have reported the occurrence of a variety of previously undetected contaminants in surface waters. These “emerging environmental contaminants” enter the aquatic environment from point and non-point sources, and include prescription and over-the-counter veterinary and human pharmaceuticals (e.g., analgesics, antibiotics, reproductive hormones, steroids) and numerous chemicals found in an array of personal care products and consumer items (e.g., antioxidants, detergents, antimicrobials and other disinfectants, fragrances). Little is known about the potential effects of these contaminants on humans and aquatic organisms at environmentally relevant concentrations, either singly or as components of complex mixtures. To date, risk assessment approaches have not been applied to evaluate this potential risk. Regulatory policy that addresses these contaminants will also be complicated by the differing mandates of FDA and EPA.

The objective of this workshop is to discuss the emerging environmental contaminants within the context of risk assessment and to explore the policy implications and possible management options. The 1½ day workshop will consist of presentations on research and regulatory perspectives with a ½ day devoted to each of the following general topic areas:

- exposure assessment (identification, occurrence, sources, fate)
- effects assessment and risk characterization (human and ecological)
- current legal framework and regulatory approaches to risk management

The workshop will conclude with a panel discussion aimed at identifying key data gaps and developing a set of recommendations for further research. A poster session is also planned.

For additional information, please contact either of the conference co-chairs: Woody Setzer (setzer.woodrow@epamail.epa.gov; 919-541-0128) or Jane Staveley (jstaveley@arcadis-us.com; 919-544-4535)