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Subject News Coverage - TSCA

Here are the news items appearing in today's Star Tribune and Pioneer Press. Overall, considering the timing of events and the late posting of the EPA revised release, coverage looks fine. We're in the process of requesting corrections to the reference to "244 violations." Also, we're preparing a brief summary for employees that will appear on 3M Source. I will distribute that to you shortly.

(Tom -- Received a reply this morning from Tony Ellis saying he has notified the appropriate people to make the corrections to the condensed version of the news release.)

Stephen

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3M agrees to pay EPA \$1.5 million in chemical case

3M agreed to the penalty over its reporting of chemical use but admitted no wrongdoing.

Dee DePass, Star Tribune

3M Co. agreed Tuesday to pay the Environmental Protection Agency a \$1.5 million penalty as a result of 244 violations of the Toxic Substances Control Act in connection with 3M's use of various chemicals, including those employed to make Scotchgard and Teflon.

The EPA accused 3M of failing to notify the agency about new chemicals and of late reporting of "substantial risk information." The fine, small for a corporate giant such as 3M, is large by EPA standards.

"EPA takes violations of toxic substances laws seriously and is committed to enforcing those laws," said Granta Nakayama, assistant administrator for the EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.



He called the action a "reminder of the importance of timely industry reporting of substantial risk information to EPA."

In paying the fine, 3M is neither admitting nor denying that it violated EPA's toxic substances rules. The EPA didn't give the time or place of the violations.

Spokeswoman Jackie Berry said 3M voluntarily disclosed all information to the EPA after beginning an internal audit of its toxic substances in the late 1990s. It was not immediately apparent why there was such a lag between 3M's audit and the EPA penalty. EPA officials said they began their review of 3M's practices in 2000.

Under Tuesday's agreement, 3M agreed to perform a comprehensive review of the management of 28 business units and processes and establish the compliance status of all chemicals regulated by the toxic substances act.

Berry said the systems review is already complete.

EPA officials said that during the course of the audit, 3M produced "valuable, previously unreported information that will help the scientific community to better understand the presence of toxic substances in the environment."

3M began phasing out the production of the Teflon-related chemical PFOA and a related Scotchgard chemical called PFOS in 2000 after the substances were found in the blood of workers and in lab animals.

3M officials have always maintained that the chemicals are not harmful to humans.

Spokesman Bill Nelson said previously that 3M notified the EPA when it learned that PFOA and PFOS had been detected in workers' blood and in the blood and livers of lab animals. The compound was made in Cottage Grove and Decatur, Ala., and sold to DuPont.

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3M to pay \$1.5 million for EPA violations

Maplewood-based 3M Co. has agreed to pay a \$1.5 million penalty to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for 244 violations of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The diversified manufacturer neither admitted nor denied that it had violated the act. It also had performed a systems review of 28 business units and facilities to determine the compliance status of all chemicals and processes related to the act. Several of the violations concerned reporting on perfluorinated compounds — including perfluorooctyl sulfonate, or PFOS — which were the active ingredients used for decades in the original formulation of 3M's Scotchgard stain and water repellents. The company stopped manufacturing PFOS in the United States in 2000, and phased

out all of the chemistries globally by the end of 2002.