EPA Press Release—Jo Cernohous is trying to get us together at 5:00 today.


From: Ellis.Tony@epamail.epa.gov <Ellis.Tony@epamail.epa.gov>
To: Hatcher, Julia (DC) <JULIA.HATCHER@LW.com>
CC: Ziegel. Dean@epamail.epa.gov <Ziegel. Dean@epamail.epa.gov>
Sent: Tue Apr 25 17:17:12 2006
Subject: 3M and EPA Press Release

Dear Julia,

Below is the Press Release that was just released on the 3M/EPA settlement.

Tony R. Ellis, Case Development Officer
Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division (2245A)
Office of Civil Enforcement
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Phone (202) 564-4167
Fax (202) 564-0035

News for Release: Tuesday, April 25, 2006

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Settles Case Involving 3M Voluntary Disclosures of Toxic
(Washington, D.C. - April 25, 2006) EPA and the 3M Company reached a $1.5 million settlement to resolve reporting violations under the Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA) that the company voluntarily disclosed to EPA. EPA filed the settlement with the agency's Environmental Appeals Board today, for their review.

3M voluntarily disclosed all of the violations covered by this settlement under the terms of a TSCA corporate-wide audit agreement. 3M has agreed to perform a comprehensive management systems review of 28 separate business units and facilities and to determine the compliance status of all TSCA-regulated chemicals and processes. 3M agreed to pay a $1,521,481 penalty for 244 TSCA violations. As a result of this settlement, 3M has corrected a number of violations, including failures to notify EPA on new chemicals, late reporting on substantial risk information, and other reporting violations. 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.

"EPA takes violations of toxic substances laws seriously and is committed to enforcing those laws," said Granta Y. Nakayama, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "We are hopeful that today's action will serve as a reminder of the importance of timely industry reporting of substantial risk information to EPA."

Several of the violations concerned reporting on perfluorinated compounds, including perfluorooctyl sulfonates (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). PFOS-related compounds were the active ingredients used for decades in the original formulation of 3M's Scotchgard stain and water repellents. 3M voluntarily stopped manufacturing PFOS in the United States in 2000, and phased out all of these chemistries on a global basis by the end of 2002. Data submitted by 3M and others led EPA to begin an investigation of these compounds in 2000.

EPA followed up the phase out of PFOS by taking action to implement significant new use rules to restrict the return of PFOS-related chemicals to the U.S. market.

Earlier this year, the agency launched a global PFOA stewardship program. The eight major companies that use or manufacture PFOA have committed to reduce facility emissions and product content of PFOA and related chemicals by 95 percent by no later than 2010, and to work
toward eliminating emissions and product content by 2015. Additional information on this program, and on all the agency's activities with regard to PFOA and related chemicals:  http://www.epa.gov/oppt/pfoa/

More information on the settlement:
http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/civil/tsca/3m.html

EPA's mission is to protect our nation's land, air and water. Citizens can help by reporting potential environmental violations:
http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/

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