

Project # 5 Site-Specific and Superfund Regulatory Support

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Risk Assessment Issue Being Addressed

Communities are often faced with an urgent need for coordinated assistance to assess and address issues of chemical and other environmental contamination. EPA's HHRA research program is frequently called upon to quickly assist in these situations, often in the face of large scientific uncertainties due to data gaps. The work under Project 5 provides rapid exposure and risk assessment and technical consultation regarding both health and ecological impacts.

Project Objectives

The HHRA program is devoted to developing approaches to respond to emerging, often crisis-level, chemical/substance issues with sound science that allow for quick action and, ultimately, quick decisions and effective solutions. Scientists in the HHRA program are also working on methods to provide the science to support decision-making at cleanup sites, developing tools to help understand community risk, or providing rapid responses to ensure that decision-makers have the tools they need to address emerging community concerns about environmental chemicals. Specific work under this topic includes quick turn-around exposure and risk assessments, technical support on health or ecological risks to support different Superfund sites or regional concerns. Taken together, this work helps ensure that EPA's programs and regions have the tools and information they need to make decisions and address community concerns.

Tasks

Task 5.2: Technical Support, Consultation, and Review for Superfund and other Agency Priorities

• Subtask 5.2.1. Superfund Technical Support Center (STSC) and Ecological Risk Assessment Support Center Requests

General functions of the support centers include:

- Distribution of Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Value (PPRTV) assessments developed under Project 4.
- Scientific/technical consultations in support of United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regional scientists and associates.
- Support for the interpretation of U.S. EPA publications and other guidance, including but not limited to the Risk Assessment Guidance for Superfund (RAGS) Volume I, the Human Health Evaluation Manual (Part A), and the Health Effects Assessment Summary Tables (HEAST).
- Quarterly Report sent to regional administrators that consolidates all Technical Support Center activity (Task 5.1).

• Subtask 5.2.2. Rapid Exposure and Risk Assessment Support

- Support is provided on an as-needed basis and varies with regard to nature and complexity of the request.
- Multi-disciplinary staff available to meet varying needs.
- Current efforts include: support for various science workgroups; technical support for PCBs in schools; review of guidance and protocols for fish consumption studies; finalization of the dioxin source inventory, and RARE project on indoor air monitoring methods for PCBs.

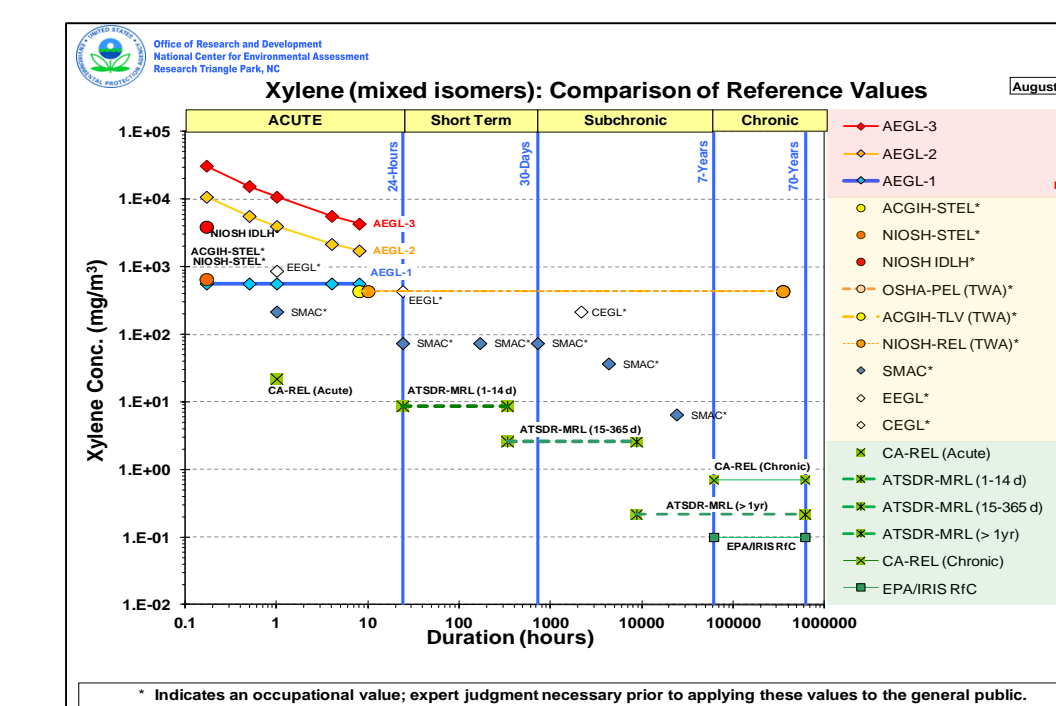
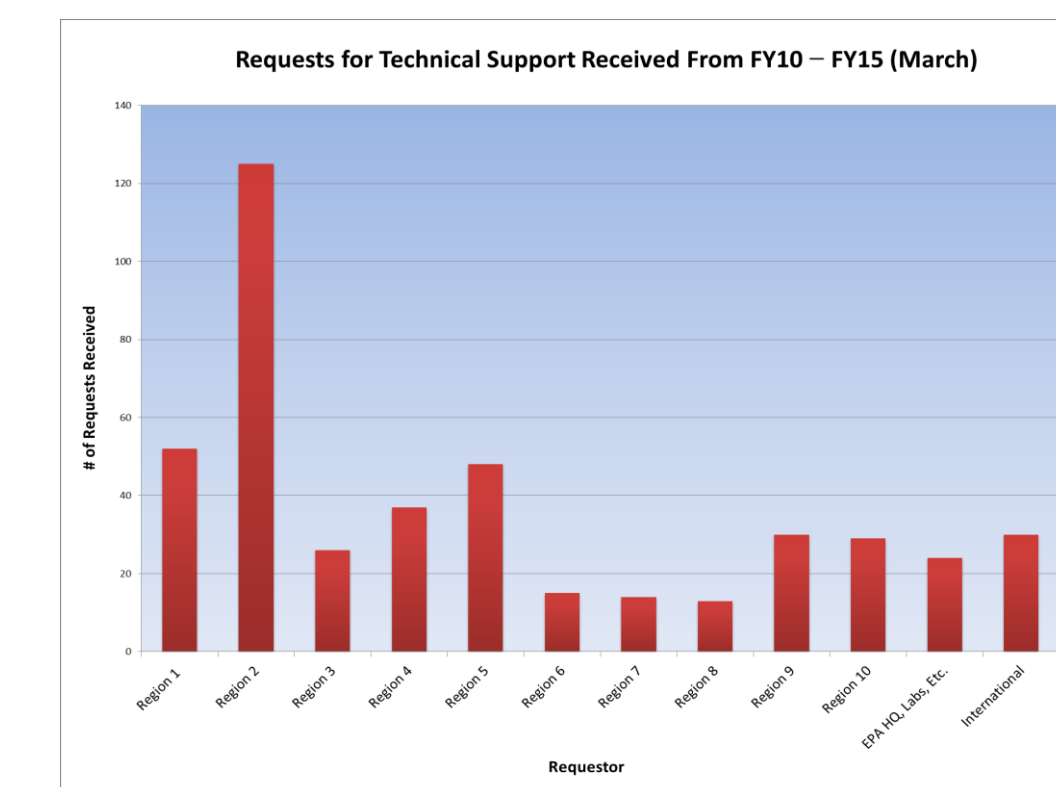
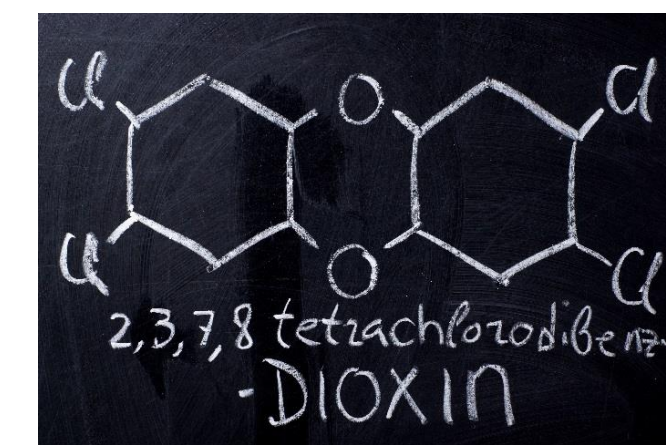
• Subtask 5.2.3. Technical Support and Consultation to Program Office Needs

- Provide data array summaries for those chemicals known to be of high interest to the Program Offices.
- Develop capacity to deliver similar types of summaries on short-notice quickly, efficiently and consistently.

Impact

Technical Support Examples of Note

- Provided extrapolated inhalation screening levels for the chemical 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM) in response to an urgent request from EPA's Region 3 regarding a chemical spill in Charleston, WV.
- Presented findings of SAN Trimer PPRTV assessment at a town hall meeting to inform the citizens of Toms River, NJ.
- Provided surrogate analysis in response to a request from the NC Division of Water Resources about the use of potential surrogate chemicals in the assessment of Acetic Acid and *p*-Toluic Acid toxicity, which enabled requestor to establish new groundwater standards for *p*-Toluic Acid.
- Past rapid response support include: comprehensive exposure and risk assessment support for: the World Trade Center Towers collapse, the Dow Midland dioxin site, PCBs in schools, and the Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill.



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