

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) held its 2006 National Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Workshop on October 4-6 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Workshop included a session called Pollution Prevention Approaches for a Safer Environment - Case Study: Nonylphenol Ethoxylates and EPA's Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative.

Dr. Henryk Melcer (Brown and Caldwell), the lead author of a state of the science review on the treatability of nonylphenol and nonylphenol ethoxylates in wastewater treatment plants, presented his findings, which indicate that NP/NPEs are no more difficult to treat than other organic micropollutants in the waste stream. Dr. Melcer also presented a summary of the environmental pathways and levels of NP/NPEs in the aquatic environment, which indicate that the likelihood that concentrations of NP in US surface waters will exceed EPA's chronic Water Quality Criteria (WQC) are very low.

Mr. Robert Schaffer, Environmental Director for the Textile Rental Services Association (TRSA) gave a presentation about the industrial laundry industry's concerns with the EPA Design for Environment (DfE) Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative (SDSI). Speaking on behalf of TRSA and the Uniform & Textile Service Association (UTSA), he noted that EPA has not demonstrated any environmental problems from NPEs use by laundries in the United States. Nor has the Agency demonstrated any environmental benefit that will be derived from SDSI. He further noted that WQC exist for NP and existing regulatory mechanisms are available to control instances where problems may exist.

All of the NACWA Panelists' presentations can be downloaded from the [NACWA website](#).