

# ALKYLPHENOLS BULLETIN

An Update from the Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council

November 23, 2007

*The Alkylphenols Bulletin periodically notifies manufacturers and users of alkylphenols and their derivatives of national and international developments of interest. For further information, please contact the APE Research Council at the address below.*

## **SIERRA CLUB CHALLENGES EPA'S RESPONSE TO TSCA PETITION**

The Sierra Club and several other environmental and union groups filed a civil action on October 24 in the US District Court for Northern California challenging EPA's response to the their Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) citizen's petition. The petitioners' complaint seeks to have the courts overturn EPA's denial of the majority of actions sought by the petition, which called for restriction and extensive testing on nonylphenol (NP) and nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE).

APERC maintains that EPA's response to the citizen's petition, which found that these compounds do not represent a risk to human health or the environment under the relevant sections of TSCA, was well grounded on extensive toxicological information. The Agency denied the petitioners' calls for restrictions on the use or to label products that contain NP/NPE. In addition, EPA denied the petitioners' request for six out of seven categories of testing. APERC is confident that the courts will similarly find that EPA's decision not to initiate regulatory action in these areas was justified by both science and the law.

With regard to EPA's decision to investigate whether there is a need for additional data on the chronic toxicity of short-chain NPE biodegradation intermediates, APERC welcomes the opportunity of addressing this issue and anticipates responding to any rulemaking activities initiated by EPA. APERC maintains that extensive health and environmental effects information exist on NP and NPE, in combination with EPA's recently adopted Water Quality Criteria for nonylphenol, that documents that current uses do not present a risk to human health or the environment.

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