Trimethylbenzenes (TMBs) Reference Exposure Levels (RELs) Document - Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants (SRP) Review Draft [05/15/23]

Meeting Date: Friday, June 16, 2023 – 9:30am

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is releasing a draft document summarizing the toxicity and derivation of Reference Exposure Levels (RELs) for Trimethylbenzenes (TMBs). This document will be reviewed and discussed by the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants (SRP) at its meeting on June 16, 2023 in Sacramento, CA. RELs are airborne concentrations of a chemical that are not anticipated to result in adverse noncancer health effects for specified exposure durations in the general population, including sensitive subpopulations.

OEHHA is required to develop guidelines for conducting health risk assessments under the Air Toxics Hot Spots Program (Health and Safety Code Section 44360(b)(2)). In response to this statutory requirement, OEHHA develops RELs for many air pollutants. The TMBs RELs were developed using the most recent "Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Technical Support Document for the Derivation of Noncancer Reference Exposure Levels," finalized by OEHHA in 2008.

A draft of the TMBs REL document was released for a 45-day public review and comment period on January 27, 2023. No public comments were received on the document.

The TMB REL values proposed are as follows:

Acute REL (for a 1–hour exposure): 2400 micrograms of TMB per cubic meter (490 ppb)
Chronic REL (for long–term exposures): 4 µg TMB/m^3 (1 ppb)
8–Hour REL (for repeated 8–hour exposures): 8 µg TMB/m^3 (2 ppb)

We are not seeking further comments from the public on the draft document.

Please direct any inquiries concerning technical matters or availability of the documents to:

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