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## **Industry Seeks to Stall EPA's Dioxin Reassessment : Washington**

By By: Neil Franz in Washington

A coalition of lobbyists for u.s. food producers has drafted legislative language that, if attached to a bill before congress adjourns for 2001, would prevent EPA from finalizing its health risk reassessment for dioxin until a federal scientific advisory board is given more time to review EPA's data. The Chlorine Chemistry Council (CCC; Arlington, VA) says it supports the lobbyists' efforts.

A draft of EPA's reassessment released earlier this year proposes classifying dioxin as a human carcinogen; EPA's 1994 assessment classified it as a possible human carcinogen (CW, June 21, p. 18). Environmental groups, including Greenpeace, are using EPA's proposed reassessment to call for dioxin emissions mandates for makers of polyvinyl chloride.

EPA is rushing to complete the dioxin reassessment before President Clinton leaves office in January and its haste may lead it to reach unreliable conclusions, says CCC executive director Kip Howlett. EPA does not have enough evidence to support the draft's conclusions, says Howlett.

Meanwhile, the U.S. District Court in Washington DC ruled recently that the National Toxicology Program (NTP) is permitted to finalize the ninth version of its carcinogens report. The report includes a proposal to upgrade a primary dioxin compound, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, to a known human carcinogen (CW, May 24/31, p. 16). Former White House official Jim Tozzi, who sued NTP to block the report, is appealing the court's decision. Tozzi, an executive for the Center for Regulatory Effectiveness (Washington), has also filed a lawsuit in the same federal court to block EPA's reassessment of dioxin .