

## A Message from the IRIS Program

June 15, 2015

The IRIS Program would like to take this opportunity to update the public on a few items of interest:

As discussed at recent IRIS Public Science Meetings, the IRIS Program had begun to rebuild IRISTrack, a database that reports the status of assessments in progress, to reflect the enhanced IRIS process. During this rebuild, IRISTrack could not be updated. In addition, EPA had begun a larger redesign of its overall website, including the IRIS website. The new IRIS website, expected to be launched in the fall, will provide the information that had been on IRISTrack, along with information about new releases, meetings, comment deadlines, and other changes suggested by our stakeholders, in a more convenient format.

Given EPA's larger redesign, there is no lasting benefit to rebuilding IRISTrack. To provide the public with information that had been on IRISTrack, we are releasing a table that reports the status and next steps for many assessments in progress, those that we can confidently predict at present. We will add other assessments to this table in the future. One source of additions will be the result of an EPA-wide multiyear planning effort to prioritize the assessments on the 2012 IRIS Agenda according to EPA's current needs. We expect to release this information later this year.

Finally, we would like to thank the public, interested stakeholders, and the scientific community for their support and participation in recent IRIS Public Science Meetings. We look forward to continued public engagement as we move forward with the new, enhanced IRIS Program.

[Table below was pulled from the IRISTrack website]

The redesigned IRIS website, expected in fall 2015, will provide schedules that reflect the enhanced assessment development process. In the interim, this table reports the status and next steps for many assessments in progress.

### IRIS Assessment Status

[Date of last update June 15, 2015]

**Legend:** **1a.** Release problem formulation materials, **1b.** Public meeting, **1c.** Release preliminary materials, **1d.** Public meeting, **2.** Agency review, **3.** Interagency science consultation, **4a.** Release public comment draft, **4b.** Public meeting, **4c.** Release peer review draft, **4d.** Public peer review meeting, **5.** Revise assessment, **6.** Final agency review/interagency science discussion, **7.** Post final assessment

Assessment	History	Next Step
<b>Acrylonitrile</b>	The assessment was previously released for public comment in <a href="#">June 2011</a> . <b>(Step 4a)</b>	<b>Step 4a Release public comment draft:</b> A revised assessment will repeat agency review and interagency science consultation before being released for additional public comment and scheduled for discussion at an IRIS public science meeting.
<b>Ammonia</b>	The assessment was previously released for public comment (Step 4a) in <a href="#">June 2012</a> and revised based on the comments received. The revised assessment was released for external peer review in <a href="#">August 2013</a> by EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee (CAAC). The SAB CAAC held a public, independent peer review meeting on July 14-16, 2014 and public teleconferences to discuss the draft SAB CAAC report on December 17 and 19, 2014. The chartered SAB held a public quality review teleconference to review the draft SAB CAAC report on June 8, 2015. <b>(Step 4d)</b>	<b>Step 5 Revise Assessment:</b> Receive final peer review report from the SAB in 2015. The subsequent schedule will be released after the IRIS Program evaluates the final report and its recommendations for the assessment.
<b>Arsenic, inorganic</b>	<a href="#">Scoping and problem formulation materials</a> were released for public comment and discussed at a public workshop in January 2013. Preliminary materials, including a draft assessment development plan (ADP), were submitted to the NRC for review in May 2013. The NRC released their interim report, Critical Aspects of EPA's IRIS Assessment of Inorganic Arsenic, in November 2013. Preliminary materials were released for public comment in <a href="#">April 2014</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on June 25-27, 2014. <b>(Step 1d)</b>	<b>Step 2. Agency review:</b> Before Agency review, the EPA will release a revised Assessment Development Plan in Summer 2015. Two public webinars will be conducted in Summer 2015; one on the ADP and another on dose-response. The draft assessment will be developed according to NRC recommendations and submitted for Agency review.

<p><b>Benzo[a]pyrene (BaP)</b></p>	<p>The assessment was previously released for public comment in <a href="#">August 2013</a> and was revised based on the comments received. The revised assessment was released for external peer review by EPA's SAB CAAC in <a href="#">September 2014</a>. The SAB CAAC held a public, independent peer review meeting on April 15-17, 2015. <b>(Step 4d)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 5 Revise Assessment:</b> Receive final peer review report from the SAB. The SAB CAAC is scheduled to hold public teleconferences to discuss the draft final peer review report on August 21, 2015 and September 2, 2015, which will be followed by a public quality review teleconference by the chartered SAB. The subsequent schedule will be released after the IRIS Program evaluates the final report and its recommendations for the assessment.</p>
<p><b>n-Butanol</b></p>	<p>The assessment was previously released for public comment in <a href="#">August 2011</a> and is currently undergoing revisions based on public comments. <b>(Step 4)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 4a Release public comment draft:</b> A revised assessment will repeat Agency review and interagency science consultation before being released for additional public comment and scheduled for discussion at an IRIS public science meeting.</p>
<p><b>t-Butanol</b></p>	<p>Preliminary materials were released for public comment in <a href="#">July 2013</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on December 12-13, 2013. The draft assessment completed Agency review and is currently being revised in response to comments received during interagency science consultation. <b>(Step 3)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 4a Release Public Comment Draft:</b> Summer of 2015.</p>
<p><b>Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)</b></p>	<p>Preliminary materials were released for public comment in <a href="#">December 2014</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on February 25-26, 2015. <b>(Step 1d)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2 Agency review:</b> This assessment is undergoing draft development and will be submitted to Agency review</p>
<p><b>Chromium VI</b></p>	<p>Scoping, problem formulation, and preliminary materials were released for public comment and discussed at IRIS public science meetings on <a href="#">June 25-27, 2014</a> and <a href="#">October 29-30, 2014</a>. <b>(Step 1)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2 Agency Review:</b> This assessment is undergoing draft development and will be submitted to Agency review.</p>
<p><b>Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)</b></p>	<p>Preliminary materials were released for public comment and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on <a href="#">February 25-26, 2015</a>. <b>(Step 1)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2 Agency Review:</b> This assessment is undergoing draft development and will be submitted to Agency review</p>

<p><b>Diethyl phthalate (DEP)</b></p>	<p>Scoping and preliminary materials were release for public comment in <a href="#">March 2014</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on April 23, 2014. <b>(Step 1)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2 Agency Review:</b> This assessment is undergoing draft development and will be submitted to Agency review</p>
<p><b>Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)</b></p>	<p>Preliminary materials were released for public comment and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on <a href="#">February 25-26, 2015</a>. <b>(Step 1)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2 Agency Review:</b> This assessment is undergoing draft development and will be submitted to Agency review.</p>
<p><b>Diisononyl phthalate (DINP)</b></p>	<p>Preliminary materials were released in <a href="#">September 2014</a> for public comment and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on October 29-30, 2014. <b>(Step 1)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2 Agency Review:</b> This assessment is undergoing draft development and will be submitted to Agency review</p>
<p><b>Ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE)</b></p>	<p>Preliminary materials were released for public comment in <a href="#">July 2013</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on December 12-13, 2013. The draft assessment completed Agency review and is currently being revised in response to comments received during interagency science consultation. <b>(Step 3)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 4a Release Public Comment Draft:</b> Summer of 2015.</p>
<p><b>Ethylbenzene</b></p>	<p>Scoping and problem formulation materials were released <a href="#">July 2014</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on September 3-4, 2014. <b>(Step 1ab)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 1c Release Preliminary Materials:</b> Summer/Fall of 2015.</p>
<p><b>Ethylene oxide (cancer)</b></p>	<p>EPA obtained public comment on an external review draft of the assessment in 2006 and completed a peer review by an SAB panel in 2007. The revised assessment was released for additional public comment in <a href="#">July 2013</a>. A IRIS public science meeting was held in December 2013 and a revised assessment was released for additional SAB CAAC review in August 2014. The SAB CAAC held a public, independent peer review meeting on November 18-20, 2014. The chartered SAB held a public quality review teleconference to review the draft SAB report on June 8, 2015. <b>(Step 4d)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 5 Revise Assessment:</b> Receive final peer review report from the SAB. The subsequent schedule will be released after the IRIS Program evaluates the final report and its recommendations for the assessment.</p>

<p><b>Formaldehyde</b></p>	<p>The assessment was previously released for public comment and external peer review by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in <a href="#">June 2010</a>. The final NAS peer review report was released in May 2011. EPA held a public workshop on April 30, 2014 - May 1, 2014 to discuss scientific issues related to inhalation exposure to formaldehyde.</p>	<p><b>Step 4a Release public comment draft:</b> A revised assessment is under development to address the 2011 NAS peer review recommendations. A revised assessment will repeat Agency review and interagency science consultation before being released for additional public comment and scheduled for discussion at a future IRIS public science meeting. The revised assessment will undergo peer review by EPA's SAB CAAC.</p>
<p><b>Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)</b></p>	<p>Scoping and preliminary materials were released for public comment in <a href="#">March 2014</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on April 23, 2014. <b>(Step 1)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 2 Agency Review:</b> This assessment is undergoing draft development and will be submitted to Agency review</p>
<p><b>Hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX)</b></p>	<p>Preliminary materials were released for public comment in <a href="#">July 2013</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on December 12-13, 2013. The draft assessment completed Agency review and is currently being revised in response to comments received during interagency science consultation. <b>(Step 3)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 4a Release Public Comment Draft:</b> Summer/Fall of 2015.</p>
<p><b>Naphthalene</b></p>	<p>Scoping and problem formulation materials were released in <a href="#">July 2014</a> and discussed at an IRIS public science meeting on September 3-4, 2014. <b>(Step 1ab)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 1c Release Preliminary Materials:</b> Summer/Fall of 2015.</p>
<p><b>Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) noncancer</b></p>	<p>Scoping and problem formulation materials were released for public comment in <a href="#">April 2015</a>. <b>(Step 1a)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 1b Public meeting:</b> Scoping and problem formulation materials will be discussed at the June 17-18, 2015 IRIS public science meeting.</p>
<p><b>Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon</b></p>	<p>EPA obtained public comment on an external review draft of the assessment in <a href="#">February 2010</a> and completed a peer review by a SAB panel in March 2011. The assessment is currently undergoing revision based on public comments and the recommendation of the SAB.</p>	<p><b>Step 4a Release public comment draft:</b> A revised assessment will repeat Agency review and interagency science consultation before being released for additional public comment and scheduled for discussion at an IRIS public science meeting. The revised</p>

<p><b>mixtures (relative potency factors)</b></p>		<p>assessment will undergo peer review by EPA's SAB CAAC.</p>
<p><b>1,2,4-, 1,3,5- and 1,2,3-Trimethylbenzenes</b></p>	<p>The assessment was previously released for public comment in <a href="#">June 2012</a> and revised based on the comments received. The revised assessment was released for external peer review in <a href="#">August 2013</a> by EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee (CAAC). The SAB CAAC held a public, independent peer review meeting on June 17-19, 2014 and public teleconferences to discuss the draft SAB CAAC report on November 5, 2014 and January 29, 2015. The chartered SAB held a public quality review teleconference to review the draft SAB CAAC report on June 8, 2015. <b>(Step 4d)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 5 Revise Assessment:</b> Receive final peer review report from the SAB in 2015. The subsequent schedule will be released after the IRIS Program evaluates the final report and its recommendations for the assessment.</p>
<p><b>Vanadium pentoxide</b></p>	<p>The <a href="#">assessment</a> has undergone public comment and external peer review. The assessment has been revised taking into consideration the public comments and in accordance with the recommendations of the final peer review report. The revised assessment is currently undergoing final agency/interagency science discussion. <b>(Step 6)</b></p>	<p><b>Step 7 Post Final Assessment:</b> Fall of 2015.</p>