

CRAC IMPACT ANALYSIS PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND

The need continues for a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) impact assessment in anticipation of Congressional oversight hearings. Experience with the NERA study demonstrated that a strictly economic assessment in anticipation of regulations yet to be promulgated is extremely difficult and not cost-effective. In light of that experience and the difficulty of isolating cost/effects solely attributable to TSCA, CRAC has reassessed the Association's information needs and is proposing a modified approach for approval and support.

CRAC continues to hold that TSCA is a reasonably drafted law which can and should be implemented in a timely manner. However, our concepts of selective imposition of TSCA authority are under constant pressure from Representative Florio's subcommittee and environmentalist groups who urge more rapid and much more comprehensive use of that authority. These pressures remain possible because of a political climate that retains general appeal for the testing and control of "toxics".

Public interest groups can be expected to argue: The Act is essentially unimplemented; little or no testing has been conducted under the Act; EPA lacks access to industry's health and safety records; PMN data is inadequate; the voluntary testing concept is inadequate; there is no PMN rule, but exemption proposals; etc. We must dispel the public misperceptions of TSCA if CMA goals of reasonable and selective implementation and longer range statutory safeguards are to be achieved.

To that end, CRAC is proposing to gather information that will demonstrate, in a positive manner, that the goals of TSCA are being achieved. Those goals focus on testing, information availability, and control of unreasonable risks.

Industry can demonstrate that it has carried out the "Spirit of TSCA", from its health and environmental priorities as well as other jurisdictions. A simple and readily answerable survey has been designed to elicit a factual, semi-statistical base of information on industry practices for chemical hazard assessment, hazard communication and hazard control, together with the organizational structures and policies which assure that these programs work.

The data gathered will be used as a basis for narrative, factual descriptions as appropriate for a variety of audiences including Congress, EPA, policy leaders, the public and the chemical industry at large. The proposed exercise will also identify an internal communications base which will make trend analysis possible via periodic surveys in the future, when needed.

CRAC requests that the Executive Committee endorse Phases II and III of the proposed survey.

- Phase I is already complete. In the first phase, CRAC developed the draft questionnaire and prepared a management plan to carry out a pilot and then the full survey.
- Phase II will include the pilot survey and a further revision of the questionnaire based on the survey's results. The pilot survey is expected to cover about 50 companies -- all CRAC companies plus CSMA and SOCMA nominees to obtain a range of company sizes and types.

Schedule: June 3 to August 18.

- Upon completion of the pilot study, CMA and CRAC will review the results and determine whether to proceed with the full survey. CRAC will report progress, plans and any changes to the CMA Board at its September 28 meeting.
- Phase III will be the full survey. It will include sending out the questionnaire, and compiling, storing and analyzing the data.

Schedule: October 15 to January 19.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval for survey plan is proposed. (Funding is incorporated within the existing budget).

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