UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MEMORANDUM **OSWER Directive 9200.1-113**

SUBJECT: Compilation and Review of Data on Relative Bioavailability of Arsenic in Soil and Recommendations for Default Value for Relative Bioavailability of Arsenic in Soil Documents

FROM: Becki Clark, Director
Assessment and Remediation Division, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

TO: Superfund National Policy Managers, Regions 1 - 10

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit the OSRTI Technical Report entitled "Compilation and Review of Data on Relative Bioavailability of Arsenic in Soil" and "Recommendations for Default Value for Relative Bioavailability of Arsenic in Soil". This report identifies and evaluates published literature relevant to estimating a relative bioavailability (RBA) value of arsenic in soil.

Based upon the analysis and external independent peer review, the following conclusions have been determined:

1. Currently available research information suggests that an RBA of arsenic in soils can be expected to be less than 100%.

2. Based upon evaluation of current data sets of arsenic RBAs in the US, the upper percentile of the data set results in a default RBA value of 60%.

3. The default RBA for arsenic in soils should only be used if site-specific assessments for arsenic RBA are not feasible.

This report and other efforts related to addressing arsenic in soil can be found on the internet at http://epa.gov/superfund/bioavailability/guidance.htm. Please contact Michele Burgess at (703) 603-9003 if you have questions or concerns.

Attachments

1. "Compilation and Review of Data on Relative Bioavailability of Arsenic in Soil"
2. "Recommendations for Default Value for Relative Bioavailability of Arsenic in Soil"

cc: Mathy Stanislaus, OSWER
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