

Dated: October 1, 1997.

**Carolyn J. Russell,**

*Director, Management Analysis and Services  
Office Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention (CDC).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

#### Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Health Service (PHS) Activities and Research at Department of Energy (DOE) Sites: Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee (HHES); Meeting Cancellation

This notice announces the  
cancellation of a previously announced  
meeting.

*Federal Notice Citation of Previous  
Announcement:* 62 FR 6539, February  
12, 1997.

*Previously Announced Times and  
Dates:* 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.-8:30  
p.m., December 11, 1997; 9:30 a.m.-3:30  
p.m., December 12, 1997.

*Change in the Meeting:* This meeting  
has been cancelled.

*Contact Person for More Information:*  
James K. Carpenter, Executive Secretary,  
Citizens Advisory Committee on PHS  
Activities and Research at DOE Sites:  
HHES, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, NE,  
M/S E-32, Atlanta, Georgia 30333,  
telephone 404/639-6027.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Occupational Exposure to Inorganic Lead: Request for Comments and Information

**AGENCY:** National Institute for  
Occupational Safety and Health  
(NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC), Department of  
Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**ACTION:** Request for Comments and  
Information Relevant to Occupational  
Exposure to Inorganic Lead.

**SUMMARY:** NIOSH is reviewing its  
recommendations contained in the  
document Criteria for a Recommended  
Standard...Occupational Exposure to  
Inorganic Lead, Revised Criteria—1978  
[NIOSH 1978]. The evaluation of recent  
literature indicates that the NIOSH  
recommended exposure limit (REL) of  
100 g/m<sup>3</sup> as an 8-hour time-weighted  
average (TWA) in that document does  
not sufficiently protect workers from the  
adverse effects of exposure to inorganic  
lead. NIOSH is requesting comments  
and information relevant to the  
evaluation of the potential health risks  
associated with occupational exposure  
to inorganic lead, as well as case reports  
or other data that demonstrate adverse  
health effects in workers exposed to  
inorganic lead at or below the OSHA  
permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 50  
g/m<sup>3</sup> as an 8-hour TWA and any  
information pertinent to evaluating the  
technical feasibility of establishing a  
more protective REL for inorganic lead.  
NIOSH is also soliciting information on  
worker blood lead levels (BLLs)  
including data on methodologies used  
in measuring BLLs in the workplace and  
information that can be used for  
comparing airborne inorganic lead  
concentrations to observed BLLs.

NIOSH intends to analyze the  
feasibility of developing preventive  
measures including an REL that would  
provide better protection for workers. In  
the interim, NIOSH plans to adopt the  
more protective current OSHA PEL as  
its REL.

**DATES:** Written comments to this notice  
should be submitted to Diane Manning,  
NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia  
Parkway, M/S C-34, Cincinnati, Ohio  
45226, on or before December 8, 1997.  
Comments may also be faxed to Diane  
Manning at (513) 533-8285 or submitted  
by email to dmm2@cdc.gov as  
WordPerfect 6.0/6.1 files.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Technical information may be obtained  
from Dr. Henryka Nagy, NIOSH, CDC,  
4676 Columbia Parkway, M/S C-32,  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone (513)  
533-8369.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NIOSH  
has conducted a literature review of the  
health effects data on inorganic lead  
exposure and finds evidence that some  
adverse effects on the adult  
reproductive, cardiovascular, and  
hematologic systems, and on the  
development of children of exposed  
workers can occur at BLLs as low as 10  
g/dl with no apparent threshold. At  
BLLs below 40 g/dl, many of the health  
effects associated with lead exposure  
would not necessarily be evident by  
routine physical examinations, but

represent early stages in a continuum of  
disease development. The risk of  
developing adverse health effects  
appears to increase as BLLs rise above  
40 g/dl.

In the NIOSH 1978 criteria document  
entitled Occupational Exposure to  
Inorganic Lead [NIOSH 1978], NIOSH  
recommended that exposure to  
inorganic lead be limited to 100 g/m<sup>3</sup> as  
an 8-hour TWA. This exposure limit  
was expected to maintain BLLs below  
60 g/dl and to prevent clinical health  
effects to the hematologic system, the  
central and peripheral nervous systems,  
the reproductive system, and the  
kidneys. NIOSH also expressed concern  
about possible health effects that may  
occur below 60 g/dl. "In adhering to the  
60 g/dl figure, NIOSH has not  
relinquished its concerns for possible  
effects that may occur below 60 g/dl.  
Adherence to this 60 g/dl figure should  
not be interpreted as a firm NIOSH  
opposition to establishing a lower blood  
lead standard. In fact, NIOSH endorses  
a lower blood lead standard as a future  
goal to provide greater assurance of  
safety.

In 1978, the Occupational Safety and  
Health Administration (OSHA)  
promulgated an occupational inorganic  
lead standard for general industry that  
incorporates a PEL of 50 g/m<sup>3</sup> which is  
intended to maintain worker BLLs  
below 40 g/dl. OSHA also included  
provisions for reducing the PEL for  
work shifts that exceed 8 hours, medical  
monitoring of workers exposed to  
airborne inorganic lead concentrations  
at or above the action level of 30 g/m<sup>3</sup>,  
and medical removal of workers with  
BLLs greater than 50 g/dl. Workers are  
permitted to return to jobs involving  
inorganic lead exposure only after their  
BLLs have declined to 40 g/dl.

OSHA concluded in 1978 that a PEL  
of 50 g/m<sup>3</sup> represented the lowest level  
for which there was evidence of  
feasibility in most industries. OSHA  
also acknowledged that, based on the  
scientific data, the PEL of 50 g/m<sup>3</sup> did  
not provide protection from all adverse  
health effects of inorganic lead toxicity  
because the hematologic system, the  
nervous system, the kidneys, and the  
fetus can be adversely affected by  
exposures to inorganic lead resulting in  
BLLs below 40 g/dl (43 FR 52952,  
November 14, 1978). In May 1993,  
OSHA published the Interim Final Lead  
in Construction Standard (58 FR 26590,  
May 4, 1993). This standard extended  
the general industry standard for  
inorganic lead to include workers in the  
construction industry. No additional  
analysis of the health data was  
performed by OSHA in adopting this  
standard for the construction industry.