

including fish, wildlife, range, soil and water, timber, and fire/fuels.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis, particularly during scoping of issues and during review of the DEIS.

The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in detail.
3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
4. Determining potential cooperating agencies and responsibilities.

Issues that were considered and analyzed in the EA were water quality and soils, wildlife habitat, vegetation, fire and fuels, roadless character and wilderness potential, air quality, biodiversity, economics and socio-economics, fish habitat, heritage resources, noxious weeds, range, recreation and visual quality, roads and access, threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species, and wetlands and floodplains. It is important to bring any new issues to the attention of the Forest now so that they may be considered in the EIS.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, have been consulted on potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.

The second major opportunity for public input is with the DEIS. The DEIS will analyze a range of alternatives to the proposed action, including the no-action alternative. The DEIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review in May, 1999. EPA will then publish a notice of availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. Public comments are invited.

The comment period on the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of DEIS's must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) may be waived or dismissed by the

courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

In the FEIS the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received (40 CFR 1503.4). The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, which is expected to be completed in August, 1999, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the final decision regarding this proposal. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for it in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215.

David F. Alexander, Forest Supervisor of the Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho, is the responsible official for this EIS.

Dated: March 4, 1999.

David F. Alexander,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Risk Management Agency

Risk Management Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Risk Management Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to establish; request for nominations and comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposes to establish the Risk Management

Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with advice concerning risk management issues and policies relating to agriculture (e.g., federal crop insurance and other risk management tools). This document seeks nominations of individuals to be considered for selection as Committee members. Comments are requested on categories of membership and duties of the Committee.

DATES: Written nominations must be received on or before April 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Ms. Diana Moslak, Risk Management Agency, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 3053-S, Ag. Box 0801, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Moslak, (202) 720-2832.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to establish the Risk Management Advisory Committee, hereafter referred to as Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with advice concerning risk management issues and policies relating to agriculture (e.g., federal crop insurance and other risk management tools). The Committee shall develop recommendations for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to strengthening the agricultural safety net for producers.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the work of the Committee is in the public interest in view of the recognized need to strengthen the agricultural safety net.

The Secretary of Agriculture or a person designated by the Secretary of Agriculture shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee. A senior official of the Risk Management Agency, shall be designated to serve as the Committee's Executive Secretary. Staff support essential to the execution of the Committee's responsibilities will be provided by the Risk Management Agency.

Committee members will be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to serve 2 years. The Committee will be comprised of twenty (20) members representing the balanced interests of the agricultural community, including but not limited to agricultural producers; the crop insurance industry; grower groups; commodity groups; associations affiliated with or comprised of users of, the agricultural safety net; Federal, state, and tribal officials; and other interested parties.

The Secretary of Agriculture invites those individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with or users of the agricultural safety net, to nominate individuals for membership on the Committee. Nominations should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership to the Committee. The Secretary of Agriculture seeks a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in the strengthening of the agricultural safety net.

Individuals receiving nominations will be contacted and biographical information must be completed and returned to the USDA within 10 working days of its receipt, to expedite the clearance process that is required before selection by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Committee in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and limited resource agricultural producers.

Dated: February 19, 1999.

Deborah Matz,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-6030 Filed 3-8-99; 12:43 pm]
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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Proposed Collection of Information; Mouthing Behavior Study; Comment Request

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety
Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC" or "Commission") is announcing an opportunity for public comment on a proposed study to determine the frequency and duration of children's mouthing behaviors. The study will observe 200 children ages 3 months through 36 months to record what items they put in their mouth and for how long. The study also includes a telephone survey of the parents of about 400 children between 37 and 72 months

old to estimate the mouthing behavior of these children. The information will help the Commission assess the risks associated with children mouthing products containing potentially harmful substances. The Commission will consider all comments received in response to this notice before requesting approval of this observational study from the Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: Written comments must be received by the Office of the Secretary on or before June 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be captioned "Mouthing Behavior Study" and mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207 or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland; telephone (301) 504-0800. Comments also may be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the proposed collection of information, call or write Celestine T. Kiss, Engineering Psychologist, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; 301-504-0468 ext. 1284 or by email to ckiss@cpsc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission staff is investigating the potential exposure and health risks to children from teething, rattles, and toys that may be made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) that contains various dialkyl phthalate (DAP) plasticizers, especially diisononyl phthalate (DINP). Manufacturers use plasticizers to soften the PVC.

The CPSC staff recently released a report, *The Risk of Chronic Toxicity Associated with Exposure to Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) in Children's Products* (Dec. 1998), which concluded that based on the best available information, few, if any, children are at risk of liver or other organ toxicity from PVC toys that contain DINP. This was based on estimates of the amount of DINP ingested, which indicated that DINP exposure did not reach a potentially harmful level. However, the staff believes that there are a number of uncertainties in this assessment, particularly regarding the types of toys that children are mouthing and how long they typically mouth these toys. Staff will undertake additional work to gather better data on which to base the health risk assessment.

Whether DINP would cause toxic effects in humans depends on the amount of DINP that is ingested. Thus, determining the amount of time children have DINP-containing products in their mouths is one important component of the risk assessment. The Commission also can use information from this study to assess potential hazards associated with other children's products, such as exposure to lead.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information before submitting the collection to OMB for approval.

B. Description of the Collection of Information

This additional work will include an extensive exposure study to obtain a better estimate of the amount of time children mouth products that could contain phthalates. The CPSC is also interested in how mouthing time varies with age, gender, and socioeconomic strata.

Subjects will be recruited by random digit dialing (RDD) in two large metropolitan areas that are each diverse from a socioeconomic viewpoint. RDD will be used to provide probability samples to ensure that the estimates are representative of the metropolitan areas where the study is conducted.

The observation portion of the study involves 200 children between 3 and 36 months old. The observations will be conducted over 2 days for 4 hours per day. The observer will keep a diary of the child's activities during the observations. Examples of activities will include eating, napping, or sleeping, play, and child-care. For 15 continuous minutes out of each hour, the child's mouthing activities will be recorded. This will include (1) the specific object being mouthed, (2) the length of the mouthing episode and (3) whether the object was placed to the lips, or put into the mouth. Mouthing is defined, for purposes of this study, as placing any item to the child's lips, tongue, and/or into the mouth.