



*Iowa Chapter March Newsletter*

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## **Global Climate Change Developments**

### **Legislation Update**

An important bipartisan Climate Change bill has been introduced in the Senate by Environmental Committee Chairman John Chafee (R-RI), and Senators Liebermann (D-CT) and Mack (R-FL). The bill would establish the average annual greenhouse gas emissions from 1996, 1997, and 1998 as the baseline against which future emission reductions and increases would be measured.

It is believed that the passage of this bill, which Senator Chafee has placed as top priority for his committee following the impeachment proceedings, would set the stage for companies to receive credit for actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions voluntarily. In order to receive the greenhouse gas emission reduction credits, which will likely have an economic value in the future, the reductions must be quantifiable and real. Thus, the challenge for industry hoping to take advantage of this bill will be in determining baseline emissions and establishing rigorous methods for proving real reductions.

### **Kyoto Protocol Update**

The United States signed the Kyoto Protocol in Buenos Aires in December 1998. The protocol comes into force when at least 55 countries representing at least 55 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions each **ratify** the treaty.

It is of note that prior to the U.S. signature, as of September 29, 1998, 57 countries had already signed the protocol, accounting for about 38 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. signature, which alone represents over 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, puts the total number of signers and percent of emissions over the top.

The U.S. Senate must ratify the Kyoto agreement to bind the U.S. to the agreement's emission goals. Ratification does not appear likely at this time.

### ***Modifications in RMP Rules***

Four mandatory and five optional data elements have been added to Risk Management Plan (RMP) submission requirements. The four mandatory elements are latitude-longitude method and description, CAA Title V permit number, percentage weight of a toxic substance in a liquid mixture, and the NAICS code for each process that had an accidental release reported in the five year accident history.

The accidental release prevention requirements as promulgated in 40 CFR Part 68 apply to facilities with more than a regulated substance present in a process.

Covered facilities must submit a RMP to EPA by June 21, 1999.

## **Iowa's Rural Water Systems...Good News**

The IDNR has released the results of a study on the levels of vinyl chloride, a carcinogen, in Iowa's rural water systems. Vinyl chloride is the main ingredient in polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, pipe which is widely used in the distribution of water. Vinyl chloride may contaminate drinking water through pipes made before 1976 when water is in contact with the pipe for long periods of time. The IDNR study was spurred by samples taken in Doniphan County, Kansas that revealed the presence of vinyl chloride in the rural water supply system. 52 water samples were taken from potentially vulnerable locations in Iowa's 20 rural water systems. Only three samples had detectable levels of vinyl chloride.

### ***Meeting Dates and Program Topics***

Amana Holiday Inn, 5:00 Social, 6:00 Dinner

RSVP by Friday before meeting

Gina Facca (319) 398-7217 or

Chris Bell (319) 626-3990

### **Tuesday, March 9; POTW Odor Project** **Cedar Rapids Water Pollution Control Facility**

#### **Upcoming...**

**Tues., May 11;** Asbestos; CAAA Title III Update, Elections

**June;** Golf Outing and Social