

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Opening Remarks

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During the first two days of the conference, we heard technical presentations. Today we will be focusing on policy. I would like to review today's agenda. We will open with speakers from four regulatory programs in EPA that use bioaccumulation data. The speakers will describe the current use of this data in their regulatory programs. After the program presentations, I will begin the panel discussion by asking the panelists to identify barriers to using bioaccumulation data in their programs and additional needs to allow more efficient use of bioaccumulation data. Once each panelist has had an opportunity to address those issues, I will open the discussion up to the entire audience. During this time you can share your ideas about future needs and comment on any of the information that has been presented.

Before we begin the panel presentations, I will give a brief overview of the programs in EPA that use bioaccumulation data. Then Mike Kravitz from my Division in the Office of Science and Technology will talk about an EPA report that is currently under development on bioaccumulation testing and interpretation for assessing sediment quality. The report is being developed by an Agency workgroup that is co-chaired by the Office of Water and the Office of Solid Waste.

The program representatives speaking today will explain how bioaccumulation data is used in EPA regulatory programs. The data may be from laboratory

assays that we heard about on the first day of the conference, or it may be from field studies similar to those presented on the second day of the conference. Once these programs have collected the data, their primary concern is determining what it means in the context of their regulations. The interpretation issue has been raised a number of times at this conference. There are fundamental questions that we are still trying to answer about bioaccumulation data. One of the critical issues to help resolve these questions is to define tissue residue levels of concern for regulatory programs. All of us feel that we need to have a better idea of how to interpret this data. Once we can interpret it by applying better scientific information, we can move to the next step and determine how to use it in regulatory decision-making.

Our panelists today are representatives of the Superfund remediation program in the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, the industrial chemicals program in the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, and the permitting (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) and dredged material programs in the Office of Water. Again, they will be giving you an overview of how they currently use bioaccumulation data in these programs. But before we hear from our panelists, let me introduce Mike Kravitz, who is our Office of Water chair of the Bioaccumulation Analysis Workgroup. He will tell us about the bioaccumulation report that the workgroup is preparing.

