SIRC petitions HHS for acknowledgement of National Academy review of styrene’s listing in Report on Carcinogens

WASHINGTON, March 11, 2013 – The Styrene Information and Research Center submitted a formal request Friday, March 8 to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to temporarily annotate the website listing of styrene in the National Toxicology Program’s (NTP) Report on Carcinogens (RoC). A petition was filed with Secretary Kathleen Sebelius requesting the annotation pending completion of the National Academy of Sciences’ (NAS) review of styrene and its listing in the RoC.

SIRC suggests this temporary annotation could be accomplished through a short statement on the RoC web page acknowledging HHS has commissioned a NAS review of the RoC listing of styrene, and that the review is underway.

“Adding a simple statement to the RoC webpage will help HHS fulfill its duty to keep the public informed,” explains SIRC Executive Director Jack Snyder. “From our perspective, the public is misinformed and misled when HHS continues to proclaim, without explanation or qualification, that styrene is ‘reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.’ The NAS review of the science underlying the listing decision and of the evolving science clearly puts that determination in question.”

Established via a congressional directive to HHS, the NAS review is the result of concerns raised about the scientific quality and transparency of the National Toxicology Program’s decision to list styrene in the 12th Report on Carcinogens.

To download/review the petition, visit the “Newsroom” at http://styrene.org.

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Find out more about the Styrene Information and Research Center by visiting the SIRC website, www.styrene.org.