

This is the weekly bulletin of the TURI Library at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Greenlist Bulletin provides previews of recent publications and websites relevant to reducing the use of toxic chemicals by industries, businesses, communities, individuals and government. You are welcome to send a message to mary@turi.org if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

Chemours Chemicals to Get New EPA Safety Levels in Coming Weeks

Source: Bloomberg BNA - Environment & Energy Report, August 29, 2018

Author: David Schultz

The EPA will propose new safety levels in a matter of weeks for a class of chemicals manufactured by the Chemours Co. that have triggered water contamination concerns across the country.

The Environmental Protection Agency is on pace to release draft safety levels by the end of September for the chemicals the company has been marketing as GenX, said Peter Grevatt, the EPA's top drinking water official.

These numbers, also known as "toxicity values," will attempt to define the thresholds for safe exposure to GenX chemicals through water, soil, air, and other media, Grevatt said. He spoke at an Aug. 29 conference of state environmental officials in Stowe, Vt.

The EPA will share these toxicity values with them before posting the numbers on the agency's website, he told the officials. The values are part of a broader agency effort to assess contamination at Superfund sites and other locations.

[Read more...](#)

See the U.S. EPA page on [GenX Chemicals Studies](#).

See from *Products Finishing*, "[Michigan Takes](#)

In This Issue

Chemours Chemicals to Get New EPA Safety Levels in Coming Weeks

In a First, Calif. Bill Would Address Salon Worker Exposures To Toxic Chemicals in Beauty Products

Competing with barnacle cement: wetting resistance of a re-entrant surface reduces underwater adhesion of barnacles

Blue-Collar Workers 'Invisible' as EPA Critiques Chemicals

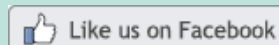
NGO drops legal challenge to TSCA new chemicals guidance

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[Greenlist Bulletin Archives](#)

[TURI Website](#)



Beyond The Safety Data Sheet: Finding Information on Chemical Hazards

**Thursday, Sept. 20th, 2018
11:00AM to 2:00PM**

Toxics Use Reduction Institute
126 John Street
Suite 14 (2nd floor)
Lowell, MA 01852

Solvents, cleaners, catalysts, and other chemicals can contribute to cancer, asthma, neurological disease, birth defects, and other

[Steps to Eliminate PFOS, PFOA and PFAS](#)".

See from *Chemical & Engineering News*, "[What's GenX still doing in the water downstream of a Chemours plant?](#)".

health problems. But safer alternatives often exist. This free, 3 hour, informal, interactive workshop presented by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) will give you a hands-on opportunity to use online databases and other tools that give you more current and complete information on chemicals, and help you identify safer substitutes. If you use chemicals, we encourage you to attend.

MassDEP has approved this event for 3 continuing education credits.

Find more information and register [here](#).

In a First, Calif. Bill Would Address Salon Worker Exposures To Toxic Chemicals in Beauty Products

[Source: Environmental Working Group, August 16, 2018](#)

Author: Nneka Leiba

Hairdressers, nail technicians and other beauty salon workers face some of the greatest occupational exposures to toxic chemicals. A bill moving through the California Legislature would be the first in the nation to provide salon workers with the information about ingredients in the products they use daily.

The bill, by Assembly Member Ash Kalra, D-San Jose, would require professional cosmetics products used in California salons to disclose their ingredients on the label. It passed the Assembly unanimously in May, and was approved Thursday in a unanimous bipartisan vote by the Senate Appropriations Committee. It will now go to a vote by the full Senate.

For more than 15 years, EWG has advocated for safer cosmetics and beauty products. We developed our [Skin Deep® database](#) to help shoppers find products that don't contain hazardous chemicals. In 2011, a headline-making EWG report on the hazards of formaldehyde-based hair straightening treatments, including the popular brand Brazilian Blowout, called attention to the increased risk posed to salon workers who apply the product. During application, these hair straighteners and other products commonly used in salons emit toxic fumes, which can build up in the air and pose a significant health hazard to salon workers and their clients.

[Read more...](#)

See more information on the California bill, [AB-2775 Professional cosmetics: labeling requirements](#).

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[California passes flame retardant bill despite industry protests](#)".

Competing with barnacle cement: wetting resistance of a re-entrant surface reduces underwater adhesion of barnacles

[Source: Journal of The Royal Society Interface, August 22, 2018](#)

Authors: Dennis S. Petersen, Thomas Kleinteich, Stanislav N. Gorb, and Lars Heepe

Surfaces with re-entrant topographies can repel liquids even of extremely low surface tension, almost independently of the material's inherent wettability. We show that this topography-based wetting resistance can also be applied to underwater applications, reducing the permanent adhesion of marine hardfouling organisms. Having combined a biofouling assay in the marine environment with microscopic analyses, we demonstrate how a synergistic effect of a soft silicone-based material with a re-entrant mushroom-shaped surface topography strongly increases the fouling release ability of such coatings compared with a smooth control made from the same material. Our coating inhibited the complete wetting of the solidifying glues produced by marine organisms, which resulted in a decreased contact area and, consequently, low adhesion. Our work suggests that topography-induced wetting resistance of surfaces may become a viable approach in preventing permanent adhesion of marine hardfouling organisms.

[Read more...](#)

See information on a webinar from Northwest Green Chemistry, "[Recreational Boat Paint and ZnO](#)".

Blue-Collar Workers 'Invisible' as EPA Critiques Chemicals

[Source: Bloomberg BNA - Environment & Energy Report, August 23, 2018](#)

Author: Pat Rizzuto

Electricians, firefighters, roofers, plumbers, homeowners, and school maintenance workers are among those whose contact with asbestos -- and other hazardous chemicals -- the EPA plans to ignore, according to physicians and public health officials.

When maintenance workers strip and wax an asbestos-tile floor, when electricians move a ceiling tile in a building with spray-applied asbestos fireproofing, and when technicians fix boilers in rooms with asbestos-containing insulation, they can be exposed to the deadly mineral, Celeste Monforton, a public health professional who lectures at Texas State University, told *Bloomberg Environment*.

Yet the Environmental Protection Agency has blindfolded itself to the health risks these and many other workers, along with residents, face from exposures to asbestos and nine other chemicals the agency is examining, Monforton said in comments recently submitted to the EPA on behalf of the American Public Health Association.

These people "will be invisible" because the EPA's risk analysis strategy will not take their exposures into account as it decides whether the chemicals pose enough risk to warrant some type of regulation to reduce exposures, said Monforton.

[Read more...](#)

See from *The Washington Post*, "[Trump set to tap centrist to head EPA's chemical safety office](#)".

NGO drops legal challenge to TSCA new chemicals guidance

[Source: Chemical Watch, August 29, 2018](#)

Author: Kelly Franklin

US NGO the Natural Resources Defense Council has moved to withdraw its legal challenge to the TSCA new chemicals programme.

The NGO initially filed its opening brief in a New York appeals court in May, arguing that the agency's approach for reviewing the safety of new chemicals was in violation of TSCA.

The NRDC's petition, which involved the EPA's November draft *New Chemicals Decision-Making Framework*, alleged the agency had issued the guidance in violation of administrative procedure and that it "illegally narrows" the risk assessments that it conducts for new substances.

But in its 27 August motion, the NRDC requested a voluntary dismissal of its petition for a court review of the document. This, it said, was in view of evidence presented by the agency that it has not been implementing the approach described in its guidance.

[Read more...](#)

See from Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, "[Protecting the safety net for new chemicals under TSCA](#)".

Also see from *Chemical Watch*, "[TSCA problem formulations may set 'improper precedents'](#)".

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