

## **An Update on IRIS Assessment Timelines**

### **June 2018**

The IRIS Program is committed to producing assessments in a timely and transparent manner. Since January 2017, IRIS has been working to modernize its workflow. Meetings with the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB, August 2017), the EPA SAB Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee (September 2017), and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS, April 2018) showcased the demonstrable progress made by IRIS to modernize its operations. As part of this modernization, IRIS has moved away from one-size-fits-all assessments to a portfolio of chemical evaluation products to meet specific decision contexts. This approach optimizes the application of best practices in systematic review and automation tools that significantly increase the speed, transparency and access for partners and stakeholders.

To maintain transparency, the IRIS Program is providing an updated outlook of program activities. Table 1 describes assessments that are in development and projected public milestone dates. The anticipated public dates are based on several factors including expression of continuing need from EPA's Program and Regional offices and states, complexity of the assessment products, and the availability of resources. Following discussions with IRIS program and regional partners, the EPA has decided to discontinue assessment development for hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), acrylonitrile, n-butyl alcohol, and phthalates (butyl benzyl phthalate, dibutyl phthalate, diethyl phthalate, di-isobutyl phthalate, and di-isononyl phthalate) based on changing needs and priorities. Moving forward, the IRIS Program will focus on the assessments in-progress listed below, chemicals from the 2015 IRIS multi-year agenda, targeted updates of existing IRIS assessments to meet program needs, as well as emerging issues of concern that have been identified as higher priorities by EPA partners (such as perfluorinated compounds).

The IRIS Program is providing this information for stakeholders to be aware of upcoming products, and to allow the public and research community an opportunity to communicate relevant research to EPA. While projected dates reflect the IRIS Program's best estimate based on available information, they are subject to change. Accordingly, updates to the table below will be provided semi-annually.

**Table 1. IRIS Program Outlook – June 2018**

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step/Product	Projected Fiscal Year and Quarter/Actual Date
Assessment Revision (Post-Peer Review)	Hexahydro-1,3,5- trinitro-1,3,5- triazine (RDX) <sup>1</sup>	Step 7: Final	FY18 – Q4
Peer Review	Ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) <sup>1,2</sup>	Step 7: Final	TBD
	<i>tert</i> -Butanol <sup>1,2</sup>	Step 7: Final	TBD
Draft Development	Arsenic, Inorganic <sup>3</sup>	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY18 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY20 – Q3
	Chloroform	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	September 18, 2017
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	January 31, 2018
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY19 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY19 – Q4
	Formaldehyde	Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY19 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY20 – Q1
	Hexavalent Chromium <sup>3</sup>	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY18 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY20 – Q3
	PCBs <sup>3</sup>	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q1
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
	PAH Mixtures	Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY18 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY19 – Q1
Scoping and Problem Formulation	Ammonia (Oral)	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	April 16, 2018
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY18 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY20 – Q3

	Ethylbenzene	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	September 18, 2017
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY18 – Q3
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY20 – Q3
	Naphthalene	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	FY18 – Q3
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q1
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
	Nitrate/Nitrite	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	September 18, 2017
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q1
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY20 – Q4
	Uranium	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	January 31, 2018
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY18 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY20 – Q3

<sup>1</sup>Assessments in peer-review or post-review incorporate elements of systematic review consistent with the practices of the IRIS Program at the time of assessment development. These mature assessments may not reflect all the current IRIS Program systematic review features. These assessments are being revised based on peer-review comments provided by the Science Advisory Board-Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee (SAB-CAAC).

<sup>2</sup>The IRIS assessments of ethyl tert-butyl ether and *tert*-butanol are currently undergoing external peer review by EPA's Science Advisory Board-Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee (SAB-CAAC). Upon receipt of the final external peer review report, the IRIS Program will update Table 1 with the projected date for the next public milestone.

<sup>3</sup>In line with recent advancements in IRIS systematic review practices, a number of assessments already in draft development will publish a systematic review protocol for public comment to promote consistency with assessments started more recently. The publication of assessment protocols conforms to well-established systematic review practices and implementation of National Academies' systematic review recommendations within the IRIS Program.