

Peer Review Plan

Date: 1/11/2016

Source Center: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Texas Water Science Center
1505 Ferguson Lane
Austin, TX 78754

Title: Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat: Potential Concerns for Human Health and Aquatic Life.

Subject and Purpose: The purpose of this product is to provide basic information about coal-tar-based sealcoat and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and to summarize the results of several previous USGS studies. The first set of studies investigated the relation between coal-tar-sealcoat use and PAHs in house dust and resulting concerns for non-dietary ingestion and human health. The second set of studies investigated PAHs in runoff from coal-tar-sealed pavement and effects on aquatic biota and DNA. The third set of studies investigated concentrations of PAHs released from coal-tar-sealcoated pavement. A final study reported changes in PAH concentrations recorded in Lady Bird Lake (Austin, TX) sediments following a ban on coal-tar-based sealcoat in Austin. The final results of the studies were published as journal articles in *Environmental Science and Technology* (four articles), *Environmental Pollution*, *Science of the Total Environment*, *Chemosphere*, and *Atmospheric Environment*. The product will be released as a USGS Fact Sheet series publication.

Impact of Dissemination: This information product is considered by the USGS to be Influential Scientific Information.

Timing of Review (Including Deferrals): November 2015 – January 2016. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Review will be by individual e-mail/letters/memoranda/documents. The USGS will select reviewers pursuant to requirements in Survey Manual chapter 502.3—Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review (<http://www.usgs.gov/usgs-manual/500/502-3.html>).

Expected Number of Reviewers: Six reviewers are anticipated.

Requisite Expertise: Organic contaminants and water quality.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No opportunity for public comment is formally incorporated for this product.

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov.