from Washington

The Environmental Protection Agency officially published its Initial Inventory of Chemical Substances on June 1, 1979. Non-listed substances that qualify for the initial inventory may be added during a 210-day period that began June 1; other substances will be subject to the prenotification procedures of the Toxic Substances Control Act as of July 1, 1979. Each firm or corporation may receive one copy of the inventory free, either in printed form or on microfiche. Computer readable tape is available for $125. The Inventory is a four-volume set. EPA also has published a two-volume set on "Trademark and Product Name List." Additional copies of the printed inventory are available for $34.50 per set from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (telephone: 202-783-3238); specify document number GPO 055-077-00004-7. Two two-volume set on trademark and product names may be purchased from the same source for $19.50 per set; specify document number GPO 005-007-00003-9. Both sets may be ordered for $54; specify both document numbers. Additional microfiche sets will be available while they last from the Office of Toxic Substances' Industry Assistance Office, EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460 (tele: 800-424-9065). Details: Federal Register, Tuesday, May 15, 1979, p. 28558.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has imposed a 9.6 percent countervailing duty on hydrogenated castor oil and 12 hydroxystearic acid from Brazil. The duty applies to such products imported for consumption or withdrawn from warehouses for consumption. The countervailing duty was imposed because the Treasury department determined Brazil was provided bounties or grants equivalent to that amount. Details: Federal Register, Thursday, May 17, 1979, p. 28790.

The Environmental Protection Agency has published its proposed health effects test for substances with tumor-inducing effects, other chronic effects, or combined effects. Public hearings on the proposals will be held the week of July 9 in Chicago and the week of July 16 in Washington, DC. Written comments will be accepted until Aug. 7. Basically, the rules specify how substances will be chosen for such testing and prescribe how such testing will be conducted. Widespread use of the testing is not anticipated, as EPA estimates combined testing will cost about $800,000 per substance. Details: Federal Register, Wednesday, May 9, 1979, p. 27334. In a related item, EPA also proposed rules for Good Laboratory Practice Standards for Health Effects: details in the same issue of the Federal Register, p. 27362.

The federal Consumer Product Safety Commission has withdrawn its June 1978 interim statement of policy and procedure for classification, evaluation and regulation of substances in consumer products that could be carcinogens. The CPSC said it feels it has authority to regulate substances on a case-by-case basis and also that it is preparing with EPA and FDA a joint statement on identifying possible carcinogens. That statement is expected to be available "shortly for notice and comment." Details: Federal Register, Monday, April 23, 1979, p. 23821.

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced plans to do a technical assessment survey of stream stripping used to remove toxic pollutants from wastewater in the pharmaceuticals, pesticides, organic chemicals, plastics and rubber industries. EPA said data collection will cover 60 plants and require about 40 manhours per plant. The notice was published in the Federal Register on May 23 (page 29971) with data collection to begin no sooner than 30 days after that notice. EPA says it will use the information in developing effluent guidelines for the Clean Water Act of 1977.

The Department of Energy announced on May 23 that it is planning to prepare rules under which it would guarantee loans for municipal and industrial waste processing, under provisions of the Federal Non-nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974. Contact for the proposal at DOE is Don Walter, telephone 202-376-1964.

The Food and Drug Administration has affirmed the generally recognized as safe (GRAS) status of hydrogenated fish oil as an indirect human food ingredient. Details: Federal Register, Tuesday, May 15, 1979, p. 28323. Fish oil is still not permitted to be used as direct food ingredient.

The FDA will accept comments until July 17, 1979, on its proposal to affirm the generally recognized as safe status of lard and lard oil as indirect human food ingredients. Details: Federal Register, Friday, May 18, 1979, p. 29102.

FDA announced April 24 that American Hoechst Corp. has filed a petition seeking approval for use of butyric acid, 3,3-bis (3-tert-butyl)-4-hydroxyphenyl) ethylene ester as an antioxidant and/or stabilizer in olefin polymers. Details: Federal Register, Tuesday, April 24, 1979, p. 24235.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has approved a tolerance for the insecticide permethrin of 0.5 parts per million for residue in or on cottonseed, and 0.05 ppm in eggs, meat and milk. Details: Federal Register, Tuesday, May 1, 1979, p. 25452. ●

ASARF selects 8 projects

The American Soybean Association Research Foundation (ASARF) has announced selection this year of eight research projects on production and utilization.

Utilization projects funded are: University of Illinois on processor and cattle feeder heat treatment of soybean meal to improve protein utilization; University of Wisconsin, use of whole soybeans, extruded meal, nonextruded meal as feed for dairy cows; University of Nebraska, improve identification and removal of phosphorus compounds from soy oil to improve stability; Texas A&M, soy protein nutritional study; USDA Beltsville, study of high-soy protein diet for middle-aged men.

Production projects funded are: Purdue University, two-year study on how to reduce high number of flowers aborted annually by soybean plants; University of Minnesota, three-year study of international plant growth regulators and role of root nodules in plant development; and University of Kentucky, three-year study of effects of soil water stress on growth and yields. ●