

## NTA gets OK for U.S. detergents

The Environmental Protection Agency has said it sees no reason to take regulatory action against resumed use of nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA) as a phosphate replacement in household detergents.

U.S. manufacturers voluntarily stopped using the substance in household detergents after a 1970 study showed possible carcinogenic effects. A *National Toxicology Report* issued earlier this year said NTA is not a mutagen, but that it does cause cancer in urinary tracts of mice and rats by an unknown mechanism. EPA, in a letter to Procter & Gamble, said projected use levels are low and therefore risks also would be low.

U.S. NTA producers, Monsanto and W.R. Grace, currently produce about 75 million pounds per year, with 65 million exported to Canada and Europe and the rest used in domestic industrial and institutional products.

Procter & Gamble had inquired about NTA for potential use in detergents for markets with complete phosphate

bans. NTA is more expensive than zeolite, another phosphate replacement, but is better as a sequestering agent. □

## A&W plant opens

*Chemical Marketing Reporter* said in mid-May that a new Albright & Wilson Ltd. sulfonation plant in Italy has begun. The \$3 million plant can produce up to 16,000 tons annually of active ingredient for liquid detergents, hard surface cleaners and other cleaning products, the article said. The plant is located at Frosinone, south of Rome, and includes two sulfur burners and two reactors for sulfation and sulfonation of alcohols and dodecylbenzene. □

## New enzyme firm

American Enzyme Corp., a new firm, has opened manufacturing facilities in Mequon, WI, to produce special-purpose as well as custom-blended enzyme formulations. The special-purpose enzyme formulations include products for chemical specialty manufacturers; custom-blended formulations are aimed at waste disposal applications. □

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## Meetings

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## Detergents Eight-0 speakers meet

Final program refinements for Detergents Eight-0, an AOCS short course on soaps and detergents, were discussed by short course speakers at a special gathering during the ISF/AOCS World Congress in New York.

The course will be held Sept. 14-17, 1980, at the Hershey Hotel & Country Club in Hershey, PA. Registration information is available from Detergents Eight-0, AOCS, 508 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820 (telephone: 217-359-2344).

During their one-hour meeting, speakers coordinated the content of their talks to insure there is minimal overlap and that they cover all major factors in producing successful products. The program is directed toward chemists and chemical engineers in the soap and detergent industry and related fields. It is designed to provide a thorough basic groundwork for persons new to the industry, as well as a stimulating review and update for experienced workers.

The program will consist of five sessions, held each

morning and evening. The concluding session on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 17, will be a question-and-answer period at which registrants may question faculty members.

Session topic: What Constraints Do We Operate Under, session chairman, H. Stupel; speakers: T.E. Brenner, "The Impact of Government on the Detergent Industry in the 1980s;" Louis Kravetz, "Biodegradation of Nonionic Ethoxylates;" A. Gilbert, "Safety of Detergent Products;" J. Bindo, "Surfactant Raw Material Outlook for the 1980s;" and R. Wendt, "Disposal of Detergent Manufacturing Waste."

Session topic: What Do We Have To Work With, session chairman, A. Cahn; speakers: N.O.V. Sonntag, "Fatty Acids and Other Renewable Raw Materials;" O. Neiditch, "Minor Additives in Heavy-Duty Detergents;" C. Starace, "Enzymes;" G.C. Schweiker, "Detergent Builders;" and M. Mauser, "Surfactant Update."

Session topic: How Do We Make A Technical Product,

session chairman, T. Matson; speakers: J.A. Wingrave, "Are Theoretical Surface Chemistry Measurements Worth a Damn—Practically Speaking?" D. Galante, "Heavy-Duty Laundry Detergents;" W. Chirash, "Light-Duty Detergents;" B. Fuchs, "Automatic Household Dishwashing Detergents;" and J.J. Lichorat, "Hard Surface Cleaners."

Session topic: How Do We Make a Successful Consumer Product, session chairman, H. Brown; speakers: A. Kessler, "Synectics;" E. Grob, "The Role of the Private Label Manufacturer;" B. Cellura, "Gearing Surfactant for Use in Consumer Products;" S.L. Sung, "A Consumer Product—How To Move It from Lab to Shelf to Home;" and N. McHugh, "Selection of Optimized Packaging Materials."

Registration fee is \$350 paid before Aug. 1; \$375 after that date. The fee includes attendance at the short course, double-occupancy room Sunday, Sept. 14, through Tuesday, Sept. 16 and three meals each day beginning with supper on Sunday evening through lunch on Wednesday, Sept. 17. □

## Nov. 15 deadline for abstracts

November 15, 1980, will be the deadline for submission of abstracts for the Fourth International Conference on Surface and Colloid Science to be held July 5-10, 1981, in Jerusalem, Israel.

Abstracts should be mailed to Prof. A.S. Kertes, Institute of Chemistry, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel. The tentative list of topics was published in the January issue of *JAOCS*, p. 57A. Papers on all aspects of surface and colloid chemistry are welcome, in addition to biocompatibility, liposomes, solar energy conversion coatings, fuel cells, energy storage, high density memory storage devices, aerosols and relevant aspects of material science.

A first circular and registration forms for the conference are available from Prof. Kertes. Conference registration fee will be \$110. □

### Erratum

In the April 1980 issue of *JAOCS*, the abstracts for speakers at the Detergents Eight-0 Short Course inadvertently failed to identify Charles Starace of Novo Industries Inc., in Wilton, CT, as the firm's industrial sales manager.

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