

As part of the effort by the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) to understand health and environmental issues presented by fluorochemicals in the wake of unexpected toxicological and bioaccumulation discoveries with respect to perfluorooctyl sulfonates (PFOS), OPPT has been investigating perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts (PFOA). OPPT released a preliminary *Draft Hazard Assessment of Perfluorooctanoic Acid and Its Salts*, dated February 20, 2002, on March 28, 2002, and issued a minor correction to that document on April 15, 2002. That draft assessment indicated potential systemic toxicity and carcinogenicity, and observed that blood monitoring data suggested widespread exposure to the general population, albeit at low levels. It also noted, however, that additional toxicity studies were underway on other endpoints and that further data would be available within a matter of months.

The Agency has since received considerable additional data. The additional toxicology data submitted to the Agency suggest a potential for reproductive/developmental toxicity, and additional blood sample analysis data indicate low level exposures to the general population that are unexplained at this time.

Stephen Johnson, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), met with representatives from the manufacturers and users of PFOA and related chemicals on August 13, 2002. He requested continued discussion with