

**A Message from the IRIS Program**  
**May XX, 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 milestone dates. The anticipated dates are based on several factors including expression of continuing need from EPA's Program and Regional offices, states, and tribes, 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 – May 2018**

| <b>Current Status</b>                     | <b>Assessment</b>  | <b>Next Anticipated Step Product/</b> | <b>Projected/Actual Date</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Assessment Revision<br>(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.

DRAFT





| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | Project Name | Activity Description           | Start Date | End Date   | Status      | Priority | Risk | Impact | Dependencies | Comments                     |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------|------|--------|--------------|------------------------------|
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-01 | 2022-07-01 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-02 | 2022-07-02 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-03 | 2022-07-03 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-04 | 2022-07-04 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-05 | 2022-07-05 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-06 | 2022-07-06 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-07 | 2022-07-07 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-08 | 2022-07-08 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-09 | 2022-07-09 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-10 | 2022-07-10 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-11 | 2022-07-11 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-12 | 2022-07-12 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-13 | 2022-07-13 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-14 | 2022-07-14 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-15 | 2022-07-15 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-16 | 2022-07-16 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-17 | 2022-07-17 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-18 | 2022-07-18 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-19 | 2022-07-19 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-20 | 2022-07-20 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-21 | 2022-07-21 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-22 | 2022-07-22 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-23 | 2022-07-23 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-24 | 2022-07-24 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-25 | 2022-07-25 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-26 | 2022-07-26 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-27 | 2022-07-27 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-28 | 2022-07-28 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-29 | 2022-07-29 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-07-30 | 2022-07-30 | Completed   | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task completed successfully. |
| MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | MIS          | MIS Activity Tracker July 2022 | 2022-07-31 | 2022-07-31 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |
|                                |              |                                | 2022-08-01 | 2022-08-01 | In Progress | High     | Low  | High   | None         | Task in progress, on track.  |

| January                     | February | March       | April               | May                             | June                       |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Uranium IAP release         |          | Uranium PSM | Ammonia IAP release | Ammonia PSM                     | PFBS External Review Draft |
| Chloroform Protocol release |          |             |                     | PFBS Agency/ Interagency Review |                            |
| Ammonia IAP Agency Review   |          |             |                     |                                 |                            |
| Chloroprene RfC release     |          |             |                     |                                 |                            |
| HBCD to OPPT                |          |             |                     |                                 |                            |

|                        |
|------------------------|
| Final release          |
| Public comment release |
| Agency Review          |
| ERC Review             |
| Public Science Meeting |
| Peer Review            |



| July                    | August                      | September               | October | November   | December |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--|----------|
| Naphthalene IAP release | Manganese IAP Agency Review | ETBE SAB Quality Review |         |  |          |
|                         | RDX Final Release           | TBA SAB Quality Review  |         | <u>Upcoming:</u><br>Naphthalene PSM reschedule<br>Methylmercury IAP release<br>Ethylbenzene Protocol release<br>Ammonia Protocol release<br>Uranium Protocol release<br>Chromium Protocol release<br>PAH Mixtures Public Comment Draft relea<br>Inorganic Arsenic Protocol release<br>PFAS Protocols release |          |
|                         | PAH ERC review              |                         |         |  |          |
|                         | Handbook Agency Review      |                         |         |  |          |
|                         |                             |                         |         |  |          |

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 10 2018

OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Soliciting Requests for IRIS Assessments

**FROM:** Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Ph.D.  
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science  
Office of Research and Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta", written over the typed name and title.

**TO:** Assistant Administrators and Deputies

**CC:** Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler  
Regional Administrators and Deputies  
IRIS Points of Contact

On behalf of the Acting Administrator, the Office of Research and Development (ORD) is soliciting program input on priorities for future Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessments as well as the chemicals currently prioritized for the IRIS FY 2018–2019 Portfolio. This request is part of our continuing effort to ensure IRIS assessment activities are focused on the most important Agency needs.

To request an IRIS assessment or to confirm your continued interest in the assessments that are underway within IRIS, please coordinate with ORD to complete an IRIS Assessment Request Form (Attachment 1).

Central to effective implementation of IRIS is information that allows for a clear and common understanding by ORD and your program, not just of priorities, but of the decision or regulatory context for each IRIS assessment. Additionally, this information helps to determine the type of assessment required to meet your program needs. To ensure proper scope and timeliness, the form requires information on the decision context, level of priority your assessment needs, and a requested completion date.

To inform your requests, I am providing a list of assessments currently in the IRIS FY 2018–2019 Portfolio and the expected timeline for completion of an agency draft (Attachment 2). ORD will solicit programmatic input for new assessment needs on an annual basis, but requests for new IRIS priorities can be made at any time.

Please complete these forms by August 31, 2018, and return to me for concurrence. I will synthesize all the responses and report to the Acting Administrator. If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

**Attachment 2**

**IRIS FY 2018–2019 Portfolio**

| <b>Chemical</b>     | <b>Anticipated Completion of Agency Draft</b> | <b>Previously indicated AA/RA-ship Interest</b> |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Ammonia (Oral)      | FY19 Q3                                       | OW  |
| Arsenic, Inorganic  | FY19 Q3                                       | OW, OAR, OLEM, OCSPP, OCHP, Regions 2,5         |
| Chloroform          | FY19 Q1                                       | Region 4, OLEM, OAR                             |
| Ethylbenzene        | FY19 Q4                                       | OW, OLEM, OAR, Regions 1,2,4,5                  |
| Formaldehyde        | FY18 Q4                                       | OCSPP, OAR OW, OCHP, Regions 2,5                |
| Hexavalent Chromium | FY19 Q3                                       | OCSPP, OLEM, OW, Regions 1,2,4,5                |
| Naphthalene         | FY19 Q4                                       | OLEM  |
| Nitrate/Nitrite     | FY19 Q4                                       | OW, Regions 2,5                                 |
| PCBs                | FY20 Q2                                       | OW, OLEM, OCHP, Regions 1,2,5,9,10              |
| Uranium             | FY19 Q3                                       | OW, OLEM, Regions 10                            |
| Manganese           | FY20 Q2                                       | OAR, OLEM, OW, OCHP, Regions 1,2,5              |
| Mercury Salts       | FY20 Q3                                       | OAR, OLEM, Regions 1,2,3,5                      |
| Methylmercury       | FY20 Q1                                       | OAR, OLEM, Regions 1,2,5                        |

**Other Relevant NCEA Assessments**

NCEA has moved away from one-size-fits-all assessments to a portfolio of chemical evaluation products to meet specific decision contexts. Other relevant assessments not in the “classical” IRIS portfolio are listed below.

|              |         |  |
|--------------|---------|--|
| PFBA         | FY19 Q2 | Coordination led by OW & EPA cross-agency PFAS workgroup |
| PFHxA        | FY19 Q2 | Coordination led by OW & EPA cross-agency PFAS workgroup |
| PFHxS        | FY19 Q2 | Coordination led by OW & EPA cross-agency PFAS workgroup |
| PFDA         | FY19 Q3 | Coordination led by OW & EPA cross-agency PFAS workgroup |
| PFNA         | FY19 Q3 | Coordination led by OW & EPA cross-agency PFAS workgroup |
| Acrolein     | FY18 Q4 | OAR  |
| PAH Mixtures | FY19 Q2 | OAR, OLEM, Regions 1,2,5                                 |

**Attachment 1  
IRIS Form**

**IRIS Assessment Request Form**

**Requesting Office:**

**Request Date:**

**Requested Completion Date:**

**Chemical Nominated for Assessment:**

**Priority of Assessment:**

**General Background of Chemical:**

**Scope of Assessment Request:**

**Need** *(Please include decision context. Ex: regulatory driver; or to identify cleanup levels)*

[Signature]

**[Program Office Assistant Administrator or  
Deputy Administrator]**

[Signature]

**ORD Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
for Science**