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NEWS RELEASE

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EPA Partners With American Chemistry Council to Study Young Children's Exposures to Household Chemicals

Research Triangle Park, N.C. – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Chemistry Council (ACC) announced today a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) to conduct a landmark study to learn more about how young children come into contact with household pesticides and other chemicals in their homes.

The study is being conducted to understand more about children's exposures to chemicals in their environment. Families will be asked to keep records of their pesticide and household product use and children will be monitored in their homes. The study is designed to measure the concentrations of the chemicals in the children's homes and determine how the children are exposed to chemicals that are present in consumer products used in the home.

The study will involve following 60 children, ages 0 to 3 years, for two years in Duval County, Florida. It will be coordinated in Research Triangle Park by EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory.

"Public-private partnership is essential to finding solutions to today's complex environmental issues. This cooperative research will leverage resources of EPA and ACC to answer high priority research questions on children's exposures to chemicals in the residential environment," said Steve Johnson, EPA Deputy Administrator.

The study, called the Children's Environmental Exposure Research Study (CHEERS), is a collaborative effort with Florida's Duval County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As part of this exposure study, the ACC has signed a cooperative research agreement with EPA to collect information on exposures of young children to several household chemicals, including phthalates, brominated flame retardants, and perfluorinated chemicals.

The purpose of the study is to obtain more information about how children may be exposed to chemicals in household products, whether it is through the air they breathe, food they eat or the surfaces they touch. This study will help to identify the potential exposure routes and pathways of these chemicals and provide real-life data that can be used to improve risk assessments for children.

"ACC is collaborating with independent and government scientists on research every year to advance understanding of biomonitoring information," said ACC President and CEO Tom Reilly.

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“By joining forces to encourage and incubate state-of-the-art research, we help protect public health now and in the future,” he said.

For more information on EPA’s study, visit the Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/cheers/>.

For more information on ACC’s Long-Range Research Initiative, visit the Web site at: www.americanchemistry.com or at www.uslri.org

EPA relies on quality science as the basis for sound policy and decision-making. EPA’s laboratories and research centers, and EPA’s research grantees, are building the scientific foundation needed to support the Agency’s mission to safeguard human health and the environment.

The ACC represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people’s lives better, healthier and safer and also supports a Long-Range Research Initiative.

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