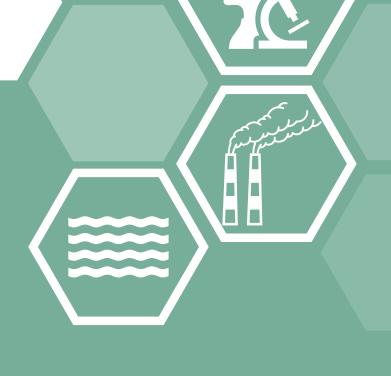
10 Steps to making an ATSDR

# INATHOFILE

To help keep people healthy and safe, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR):

- Gathers as much information as possible about chemicals that might be dangerous
- Publishes this information as Toxicological Profiles, or ToxProfiles™



#### What are ToxProfiles?

- ToxProfiles give information on how hazardous (poisonous) substances may affect health.
- Each ToxProfile includes a Public Health Statement, a summary chapter that outlines the ToxProfile's information on hazardous substances and its potential health effects. A shorter, more readerfriendly version of the profile, known as a ToxFAQs, is also available.
- Many toxicologists (scientists who study harmful chemicals) rely on ToxProfiles to do their work.

### Prioritize toxic substances.

We develop the **Substance Priority List** (SPL) which lists chemicals found at hazardous waste sites on the National Priorities List (NPL).

- Hazardous waste sites are properties where toxic (harmful) substances have been left behind.
- The NPL is a list of important hazardous waste sites that the **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) is cleaning up.

The substances on the SPL are prioritized based on:

- How toxic they are
- How often they have been found at **NPL** sites
- How likely people have been exposed

#### **Select ToxProfiles.**

We select ToxProfiles based on:

- The SPL
- New scientific research
- If individuals, organizations, or agencies have requested a ToxProfile

**Every year, we request nominations for profiles.** 

Anyone can suggest a ToxProfile.

Members of the public, government agencies, or private organizations can tell us which chemicals they are worried about.

#### **Conduct a comprehensive** literature review.

We gather and review all the published scientific research available to form a complete picture of each substance. Then, we create a draft ToxProfile.

#### **Develop Health Guidance** Values (HGVs).

Our scientists review the draft ToxProfile and decide on **Minimal Risk** Levels (MRLs) for that substance.

- MRLs estimate how much of a certain kind of exposure (contact) to a hazardous substance will likely **not** make people sick (like by breathing toxic fumes or drinking contaminated water).
- MRLs can help public health professionals know who's at risk of getting sick in a certain location.

#### **Perform comprehensive** internal and external review of the profile.

- Other government agencies (inter-agency review)
- Experts within CDC/ATSDR

## **Conduct independent** peer review.

- Non-government independent experts review the profile.
- Profiles are revised (as needed) based on peer review comments.
- Peer review comments are posted on the web.

### We post a draft of the **ToxProfile and invite** comment on it at www.regulations.gov

- The public comment period is 90 days.
- We announce the release of the draft for public comment profile via Federal Register announcement and on our website.

# **Review and respond to** public comments.

- We summarize all comments and concerns received during the public comment period and revise the profile as needed.
- Comments are available for viewing on **regulations.gov**.
- Our response to public comments is available from the public docket.

# **Complete additional** intra-agency review, peer review, and clearance.

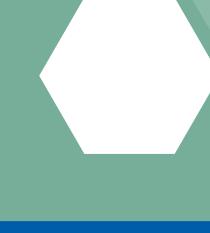
# Did you know?

- Over the past 20 years, ATSDR has developed more than 300 ToxProfiles.
- ToxProfiles are recognized nationally and internationally as credible sources of information for public health
- professionals. • We review high-priority ToxProfiles each year, as well as new substances,

and choose several to update or create.

#### After final review and agency clearance, we post the final ToxProfile online.

- We announce on our website that a new ToxProfile is available.
- · We let people know about it via a Federal Register Notice. • All the profiles are free for the
- public to access and use at: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ toxprofiles/index.html.



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry <u>www.atsdr.cdc.gov</u>