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EPA INTENDS TO FINALIZE CURRENT RULING ON METHYLENE CHLORIDE

EPA announced upcoming actions on methylene chloride, a chemical that can be used for paint stripping. The Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which amended TSCA, requires EPA to perform risk evaluations on the uses of ten specific chemicals including methylene chloride. EPA is nearing the completion of Problem Formulations for the first ten chemicals.

A timeline of EPA's recent work on methylene chloride is as follows:

- In 2014, EPA addressed paint stripping uses in its risk assessment
- In January 2017, EPA proposed prohibiting consumer and commercial paint stripping uses for methylene chloride
- In June 2017, EPA announced that it will not re-evaluate paint stripping uses of methylene chloride

Based on this work, EPA is announcing three updates:

1. EPA intends to finalize the methylene chloride rulemaking
2. EPA is not re-evaluating the paint stripping uses of methylene chloride and is relying on its previous risk assessments
3. EPA is working to send the finalized rulemaking to OMB shortly

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