

submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Do not submit any disk or CD ROM through the mail. Due to security measures, disks and CD ROMs risk being destroyed when handled as Federal government mail.

2. *By fax.* Send your nomination(s) to the technical contact identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

3. *In person or by courier.* Deliver your nomination to: OPPT Document Control Office (DCO). See Unit II.1.iii. for Document Control Office information.

III. Background

A. Action

EPA's ongoing implementation of EDSP is science-driven, and supported by the recommendations and comments of knowledgeable scientists and stakeholders. Information on the EDMVS meetings to date, a list of the current members of the EDMVS, and other EPA EDSP-related information are available at <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/oscpendo/edmvs.htm>.

The EDMVS held its initial meeting in October 2001. All 26 members started their membership with that meeting and 25 of the original members remain with the subcommittee. In October 2003, 25 of the current members will have served their initial 2-year term and may reapply to the subcommittee or not, as time and responsibilities may dictate.

The purpose of this **Federal Register** notice is to solicit nominations for scientists who would be interested in serving on this cutting edge subcommittee. You may nominate others and you may self-nominate. Qualifications for subcommittee membership are discussed in Unit II. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

EPA hopes to announce its selection of members for the subcommittee's third and fourth years by September 2003.

B. The Purpose of the Endocrine Disruptor Methods Validation Subcommittee

1. *Purpose and authority.* The EDMVS was established in accordance with the FACA (5 U.S.C. app. 2 section 9(c)). The EDMVS is a subcommittee of EPA's NACEPT. The purpose of the EDMVS is to assist NACEPT in providing advice and counsel to EPA on scientific issues associated with the conduct of studies necessary for validation of Tier I and Tier II assays for EPA's EDSP. The EDMVS explores issues regarding: The development and choice of initial protocols; prevalidation study designs; validation study designs; the integration

of prevalidation, and validation study results into EDSP Tier I and Tier II methods documents suitable for external peer review. All EDMVS recommendations are forwarded to the Agency through NACEPT. Taking into consideration this advice and recommendations, EPA will manage and conduct prevalidation and validation laboratory studies.

2. *Objective and scope of the activity.* The EDMVS and NACEPT provide a forum for diverse groups of individuals representing a broad range of interests to consult with and make recommendations to the Agency on matters relating to the development, optimization, and validation of endocrine disruptor screening and testing methods. The subcommittee will analyze issues, review data and protocols, compile information, make recommendations to the Agency through NACEPT, and undertake other activities necessary to meet its responsibilities. The complete Mission Statement is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/oscpendo/edmvs.htm>, press enter and page down to "EDMVS Subcommittee Mission Statement."

3. *Meetings.* The EDMVS may hold up to six meetings a year. These meetings generally are held in Washington, DC and usually last for 2–3 days. Meeting materials to be discussed are distributed to members prior to the meetings. A regular employee of EPA acts as the DFO and will be present or represented at all meetings. All EDMVS meetings are called, announced, and held in accordance with FACA and NACEPT rules, which require open meetings and an opportunity for interested persons to file comments before or after meetings, or to make statements during the public meetings to the extent time permits. The date, time, location, and any public participation instructions for each meeting are announced in the **Federal Register** at least 15 days before the meeting date. Each meeting is conducted in accordance with an agenda. Meeting information and the agenda are posted on the Agency's web site as soon as available.

To date, the EDMVS has held six, meetings starting with a 2-day meeting October 30–31, 2001. Other face-to-face meetings were held; December 10–12, 2001; March 25–27, 2002; and July 23–24, 2002. There have been two 2-hour teleconferences, each on a single topic. There are face-to-face meetings planned for June 5–6, 2003 and August 19–21, 2003.

C. Establishment of the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program

The complexity of the scientific and regulatory issues surrounding the endocrine disruptor issue led EPA to seek broad expert advice and counsel beyond the Agency. EPA held a public meeting in May of 1996 requesting advice on how to develop a scientifically defensible, pragmatic approach to endocrine disruptor screening and testing. The stakeholder feedback indicated that a broad based multi-sector stakeholder committee should be established under the FACA. Following a second public meeting and analysis of stakeholder interests (Keystone Center Convening Report), the Agency chartered the Endocrine Disruptor Screening and Testing Advisory Committee (EDSTAC).

EDSTAC was charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Agency regarding a strategy for testing chemical substances to determine whether they may have an effect in humans similar to an effect produced by naturally occurring hormones. EDSTAC consisted of 39 representatives from industry, environmental and public health advocacy groups, state government, other Federal agencies, and academic scientists. Over a 2-year period, EDSTAC held eight meetings. In its final report (available at <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/oscpendo/history/exesum14.pdf>), EDSTAC provided 71 consensus recommendations regarding an endocrine disruptor screening program.

EPA's EDSP was set forth in a notice published in the **Federal Register** of August 11, 1998 (63 FR 42852) (FRL–6021–3), and described in more detail in a proposed statement of policy published in the **Federal Register** of December 28, 1998 (FR 67 79611) (FRL–7286–6). The EDSP proposed statement of policy, was subsequently reviewed by a joint panel of the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) and the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) in May 1999. The SAP/SAB issued a final report that concluded that a tiered approach relying on a combination of *in vivo* and *in vitro* screens for Tier I and a set of *in vivo* Tier II tests was scientifically reasonable.

D. Implementation of EPA's Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program

EPA's ongoing implementation of EDSP is science-driven, and supported by the recommendations and comments of EDSTAC, the SAP/SAB Joint Panel, and the EDMVS. The Agency's Implementation is currently proceeding on three fronts: Priority setting for