

# Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council

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## **Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council Questions Need and Basis for U.S. EPA Program to Assess Alternatives for Nonylphenol Ethoxylate Surfactants**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Washington, D.C.* - The Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council (APERC) questions both the need and basis for the U.S. EPA Design for Environment (DfE) Alternatives Assessment for Nonylphenol Ethoxylate (NPE) surfactants released today, especially considering the fact that NPEs have not been shown to present a risk to human health or the environment in the U.S.

The Alternatives Assessment is a component of the Agency's action plan for NPE, which APERC has previously stated is seriously lacking in scientific rigor. In APERC's view, U.S. EPA's characterization of NPEs, and their environmental degradation intermediate nonylphenol (NP), as "compounds of concern" in the Agency's action plan is not justified. APERC also believes the action plan document for NP/NPE is not scientifically robust, does not reflect the weight-of-evidence for the extensive data available for these compounds, and includes many oversights.

While both the Alternatives Assessment and the NP/NPE action plan acknowledge U.S. EPA's finalized Water Quality Criteria (WQC) for NP (concentrations in surface water that are protective of fish and other aquatic species), neither considers monitoring data which show that concentrations in U.S. waters do not represent a risk relative to those WQC.

Also of concern is that the NPE Alternatives Assessment does not sufficiently address the ecotoxicity or the human safety of the alternative surfactants and other co-ingredients that are commonly used in alternative formulations that attempt to match the performance of NPEs.

NPEs are cost-effective surfactants that provide high technical performance in a broad array of applications. The weight of the scientific evidence for nonylphenol and its ethoxylates continues to support their human and environmental safety when used as intended and disposed of responsibly.

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*The mission of the Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research Council, which is composed of manufacturers, processors and raw material suppliers of alkylphenols (AP) and alkylphenol derivatives (e.g., alkylphenol ethoxylates (APE)), is to promote the safe use of AP and AP derivatives through research and outreach within the framework of responsible chemical management. For more information about AP and APE go to [www.aperc.org](http://www.aperc.org).*