

# **RISK**eLearning Nanotechnology – Applications and Implications for Superfund



Session 9: November 8, 2007

“Looking Forward:  
Nanotechnology and Superfund”

Moderator: Heather Henry, SBRP/NIEHS



*Where Does the Nano Go?*

**David Rejeski**

Director,  
Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies,  
Woodrow Wilson Center

*Overview of ORD Draft  
Nanotechnology Research Strategy*

**Randy Wentsel**

National Program Director, Contaminated  
Sites/Resource Conservation, ORD/EPA

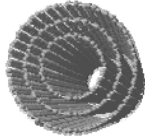
# RISK<sup>e</sup>Learning

## Nanotechnology: Applications and Implications

Session 1: January 18, 2007

### “Introduction to Nanotechnology”

Nora Savage, EPA ORD NCER  
Nigel Walker, NIEHS NTP



#### Advantages to Nanotechnology:

- New properties
- Enable greater efficiency

- Product Use and Diversity
- Government Collaborations
- Funding Allocation
- Research Approaches
  - EPA STAR
  - NTP
  - NIEHS Grantees



Walker

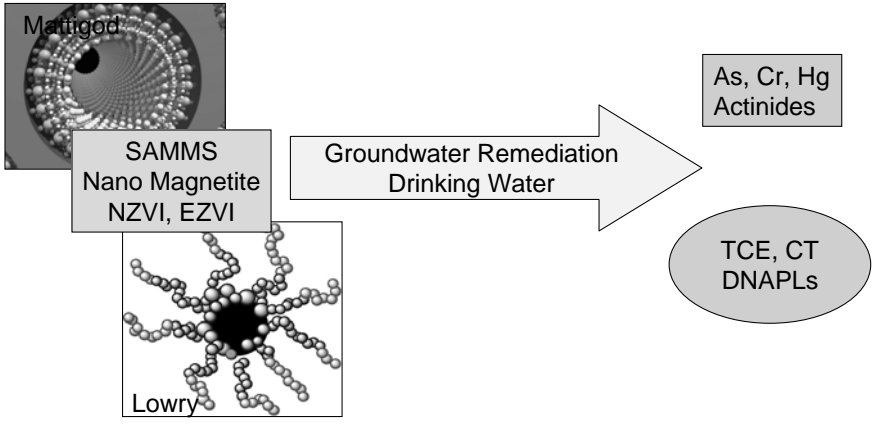
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## Nanotechnology: Applications

Session 2: February 13, 2007  
"Metal Remediation"  
Mason Tomson, Rice University  
Shas Mattigod, PNNL

Session 3: March 15, 2007  
"DNAPL Remediation"  
Matt Hull, Luna Innovations, Inc.  
Peter Vikesland, Virginia Tech  
Greg Lowry, Carnegie Mellon University

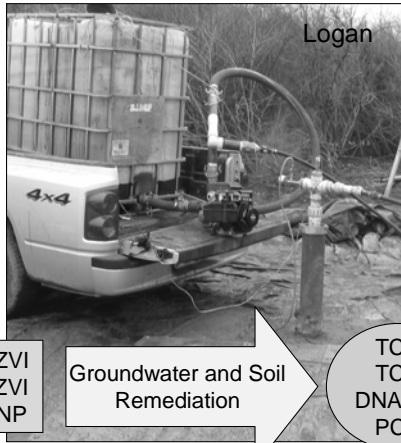


# RISK<sup>e</sup>Learning

## Nanotechnology: Applications

Session 4: April 19, 2007  
**“Superfund Site Remediation”**  
 Marti Otto, EPA OSRTI  
 Mary Logan, RPM, EPA Region 5

Session 5: May 31, 2007  
**“Environmental Sensors”**  
 Paul Gilman, ORCAS  
 Desmond Stubbs, ORCAS  
 Ian Kennedy, UC - Davis



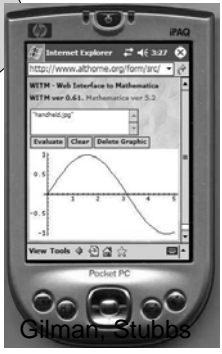
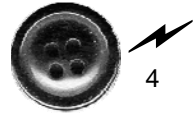
NZVI  
 EZVI  
 BNP

Groundwater and Soil  
 Remediation

TCE  
 TCA  
 DNAPLs  
 PCE

Dog-on-a-Chip  
 Exposure Monitors  
 Environ. Detectors  
 DNA Assay

Wearable  
 Real-Time  
 Qualitative  
 Quantifiable



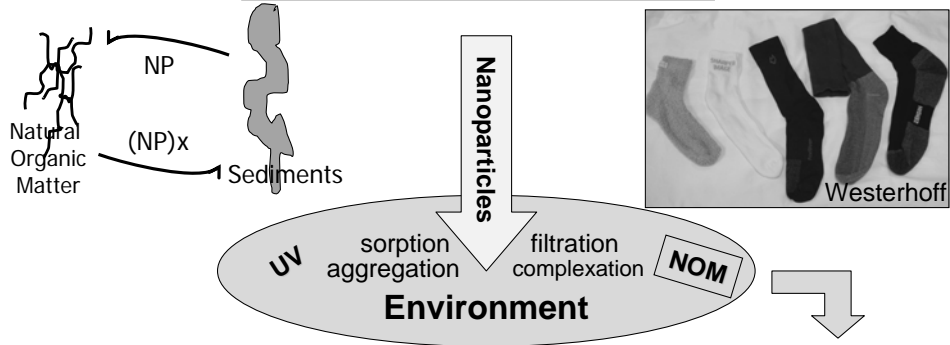
Gilman, Stubbs

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# RISK<sup>e</sup>Learning

## Nanotechnology: Implications

Session 6: August 16, 2007  
“Fate and Transport”  
Richard Zepp, EPA, NERL/ERD  
Paul Westerhoff, Arizona State University



Session 7: September 12, 2007  
“Human Toxicology and Risk Assessment”

Session 8: October 18, 2007  
“Nanomaterials and Ecotoxicology”

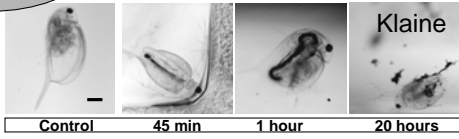
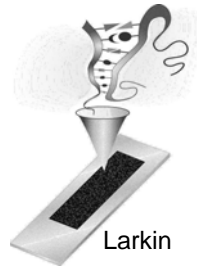
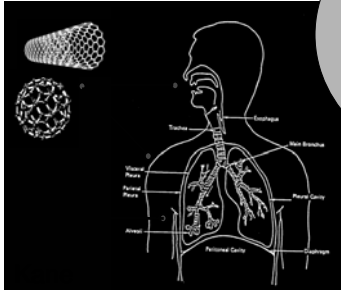
# RISK<sup>e</sup>Learning

## Nanotechnology: Implications

Session 7: September 12, 2007  
**“Human Toxicology and Risk Assessment”**  
Kevin Dreher, US EPA  
Agnes Kane & Robert Hurt, Brown University  
Stephen Roberts, University of Florida

Session 8: October 18, 2007  
**“Nanomaterials and Ecotoxicology”**  
Stephen Klaine, Clemson University  
Patrick Larkin, Santa Fe Comm. College

Unique “Nano-ness” could mean unique toxicities relative to bulk materials.



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## **RISK**eLearning

Nanotechnology: Applications and Implications for Superfund

- **Challenges**
  - Diversity of products, rapidly evolving
    - Variability
    - Quality Control
    - Characterization
  - Environmental interactions, which ones are critical?
- **Opportunities**
  - Applications
  - Collaborations
  - Funding
- **Future Directions**
  - Policy: David Rejeski
  - Research: Randy Wentzel
  - Discussion: Audience!!

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## Nanotechnology: Planning Committee



**THANKS!**



### SBRP/NIEHS

Kathy Ahlmark, Beth Anderson, David Balshaw, Heather Henry, Claudia Thompson, Sally Tinkle, William Suk

### MDB, NIEHS-Contractor

Maureen Avakian, Larry Reed, Larry Whitson

### EPA

Michael Gill (ORD/Reg 9), Marian Olsen (Reg 1), Marti Otto (OSWER/TIFSD), Mitch Lasat (ORD/NCER), Warren Layne (Reg 5), Charles Maurice (ORD/Reg 5), Jayne Michaud (OSWER), Nora Savage (ORD/NCER), Barbara Walton (ORD), Randy Wentzel (ORD),  
CLU-IN Staff, & Jeff Heimerman (TIFSD)

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# Where Does the Nano Go? End-of-Life Strategies for Nanotechnologies

David Rejeski  
Director, Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
Washington, DC



Project on  
**Emerging Nanotechnologies**  
at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

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## Some History

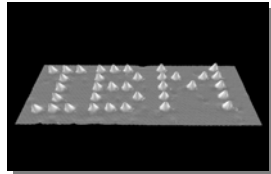
1976 Congress passes the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**, regulating hazardous waste from its production to its disposal.

1976 President Gerald Ford signs the **Toxic Substances Control Act** to reduce environmental and human health risks.

1977 President Jimmy Carter signs the **Clean Air Act Amendments** to strengthen air quality standards and protect human health.

1978 Residents discover that Love Canal, New York, is contaminated by buried leaking chemical containers.

1980 Congress creates **Superfund** to clean up hazardous waste sites.



Writing with atoms. D.M. Eigler, E.K. Schweizer. Positioning single atoms with a scanning tunneling microscope. *Nature* 344, 10 524-526 (1990).

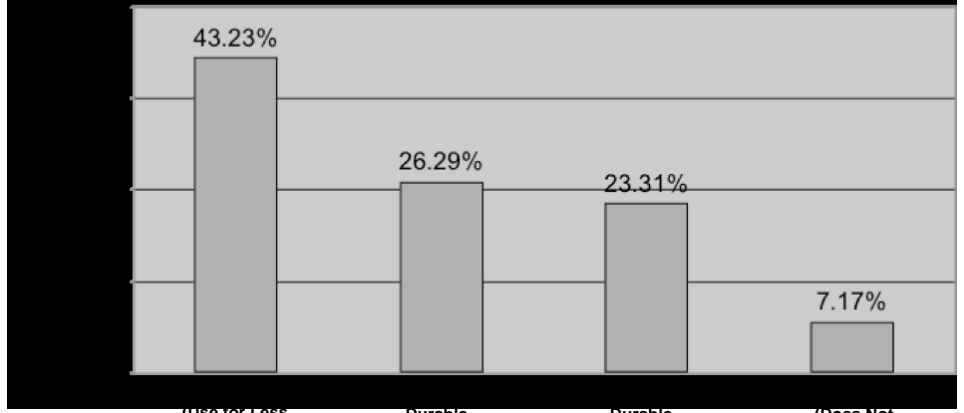
## Why Address Nanotechnology End-of-Life Issues?

- Little is known about effects of nanomaterials and nanowastes on human health or the environment
- Nanomaterials may behave differently in the environment than bulk materials
- Nanomaterials are already in commerce and in the waste stream
- No law deals specifically with nanotechnology



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# None Products in the Waste Stream



(Use for Less Than 1 Year)

Durable (Use for 1-5 Years)

Durable (Use for Over 5 Years)

(Does Not Enter Waste Stream Directly)



Less Than 1 Year

1-5 Years

Over 5 Years

Indirectly Enters Waste Stream

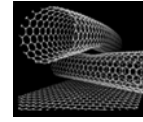
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## Estimated Global Production Rates for Various Nanomaterials and Devices

Application	Material/device	Estimated Production Rates (metric tons/year)		
		2004	2005-2010	2011-2020
Structural applications	Ceramics, catalysts, composites, coatings, thin films, powders, metals	10	103	10 <sup>4</sup> -10 <sup>5</sup>
Skincare products	Metal oxides (titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, iron oxide)	103	103	10 <sup>3</sup> or less
ICT	Single wall nanotubes, nano electronics, opto-electro materials (titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, iron oxide), organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs)	10	102	10 <sup>3</sup> or more
Biotechnology	Nanoencapsulates, targeted drug delivery, bio-compatible, quantum dots, composites, biosensors	< 1	1	10
Instruments, sensors, characterization	MEMS, NEMS, SPM, clip-pen lithography, direct write tools	10	102	10 <sup>2</sup> -10 <sup>3</sup>
Environmental	Nanofiltration, membranes	10	102	10 <sup>3</sup> -10 <sup>4</sup>

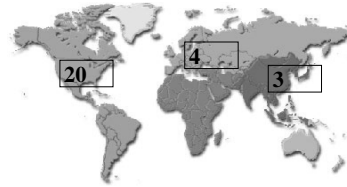
Source: RS/RAE. 2004. *Nanoscience and nanotechnologies: Opportunities and uncertainties*, The Royal Society and The Royal Academy of Engineering, London, UK. Table 4.1. Available at: <http://www.nanotec.org.uk/finalReport.htm>  
 Note: Estimated global production rates for various nanomaterials and devices are based on international chemical journals and reviews and market research.

# The Case of Carbon Nanotubes



Uses: sporting goods, conductive composites, batteries, fuel cells, solar cells, field emission displays, biomedical uses, fibers/fabrics, sensors.

27 firms producing carbon nanotubes globally. Production concentrated in the U.S. and Japan but shifting to Korea and China.



108 metric tons produced in year 2004  
>1000 metric tons annual production estimated within five years

End-of-life issues (incineration, land-filling, recycling) unresolved

From: "Analysis of Nanotechnology from an Industrial Ecology Perspective," Deanna Lekas, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 2005.

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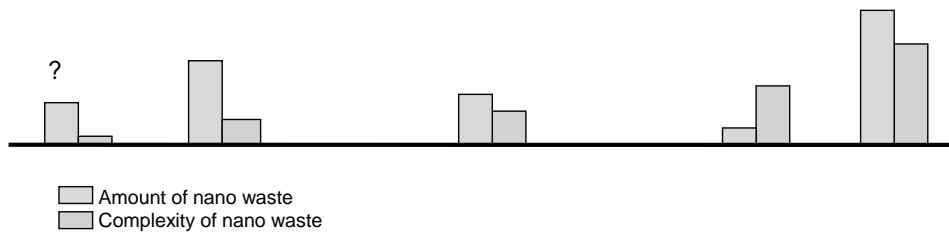
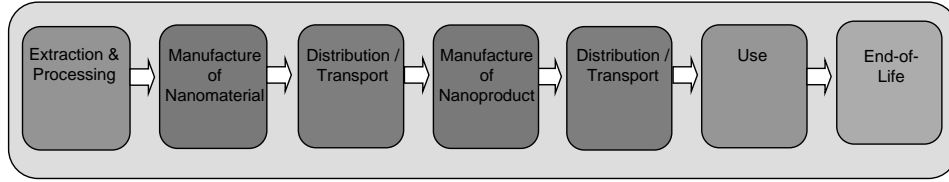
## Carbon Nanotube Production Inputs

Inputs for Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) Production Process	Approx. Quantities to Produce 1 kg CNT/yr
Process gases:	
Acetylene	708 L
Ammonia	708 L
Methane	708 L
Hydrogen	708 L
Ceramic catalyst support particles	170 g
Iron, cobalt, and nickel compounds	80 g
Acid bath (e.g., hydrochloric, nitric, hydrofluoric)	0.67 L

Note: Inputs from one CNT manufacturer using the CVD production process.

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# Waste and the Nanotech Life Cycle



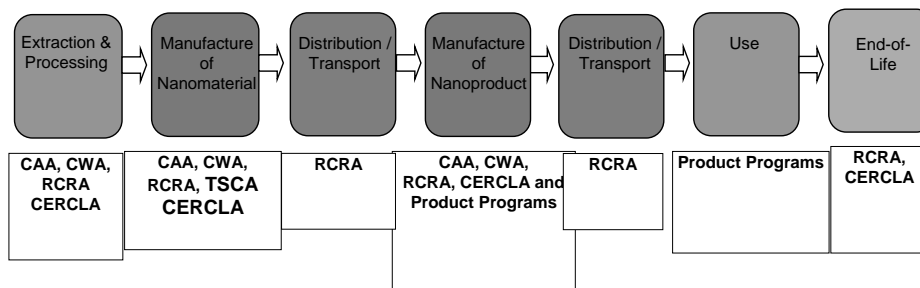
"The potential benefits of nanotechnologies should be assessed in terms of life cycle assessment (LCA)." UK Royal Society (2004), *Nanoscience and nanotechnologies: opportunities and uncertainties*.

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Add photos



# Regulations Across the Life Cycle



**CAA** = Clean Air Act

**CERCLA** = Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

**CWA** = Clean Water Act

**FIFRA** = Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

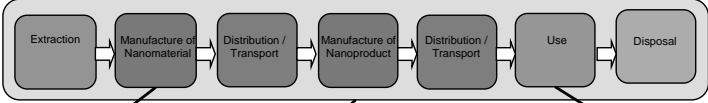
**RCRA** = Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act

**TSCA** = Toxic Substances Control Act

**Product Programs** in this context refer to FIFRA, TSCA, and CAA §211.

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# NGO Activities



**Protest at Molecular Foundry opening, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab**

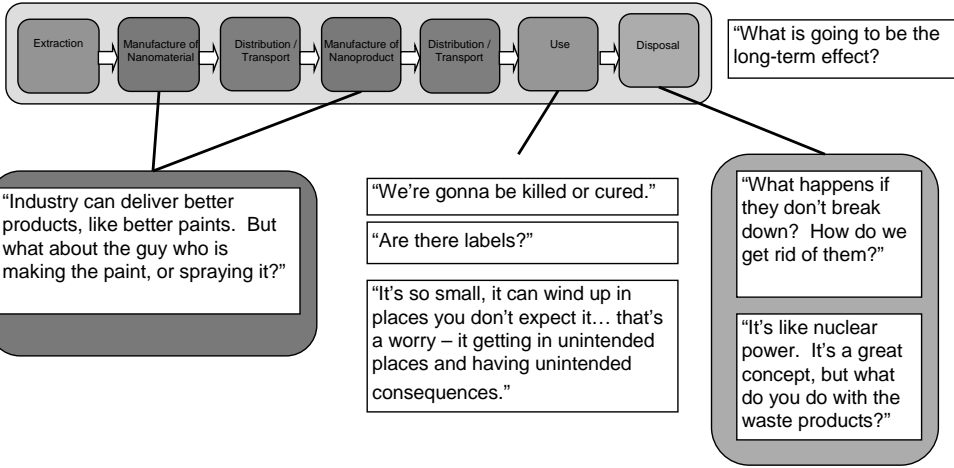
**NANO Risk Framework**  
**Environmental Defense (with DuPont)**  
<http://www.nanoriskframework.org>

**NRDC: Supermodel Angela Lindvall talks nanotechnology**  
<http://www.itsyournature.org/video/Tips/183>

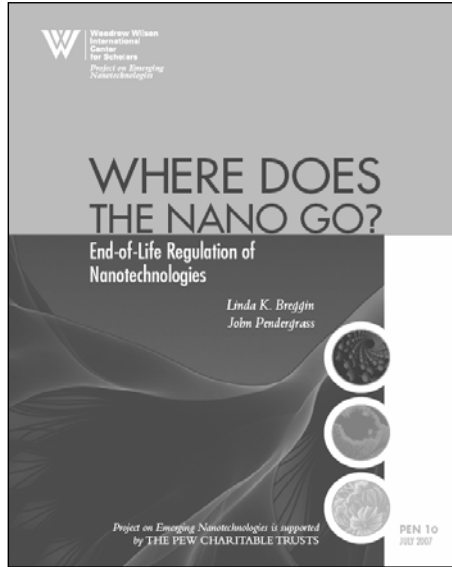
**THONG: Protesting Nanotex outside Bauer,**  
<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2005/05/nanotex>

**ETC Group: Nano-Hazard symbol Competition**  
[http://www.etcgroup.org/en/materials/publications.html?pub\\_id=604](http://www.etcgroup.org/en/materials/publications.html?pub_id=604)

# Public Perception Concerns



Quotes from: Macoubrie, Jane. (2005) "Informed Public Perceptions of Nanotechnology and Trust in Government," January, and Francesconi, Robert. (2005) "Facilitator's Report of Findings: Nanotechnology Experimental Issue Groups," July.



Available at: <http://www.nanotechproject.org/132/where-does-the-nano-go-new-report-on-end-of-life-regulation-of-nanotechnologies>

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# CERCLA

## Key objectives:

- Clean up inactive and abandoned hazardous waste sites;
- Create incentives for proper future handling of hazardous substances.
- Addresses contamination the system failed to address prospectively.



# Could the Superfund Statute Apply to Nanomaterials?

## *Four Key Questions*

- Is there a **hazardous substance** (or pollutant or contaminant)?
- Is there a **release** or substantial threat of release?
- Is the release from a **facility**?
- Is the release into the **environment**?

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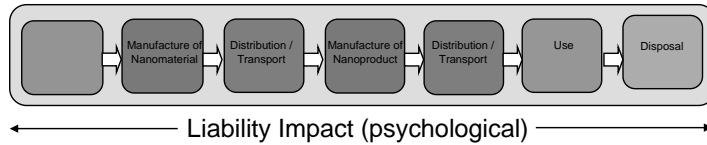
# Nanomaterials and CERCLA Liability

Liability is **retroactive, strict, and joint and several** for wide range of parties, including:

- site owners/operators, generators, and transporters; and
- covers federal facilities.

Statutory liability approach could:

- provide authority to require cleanups, if nanomaterials are determined at a later date to be hazardous substances;
- may influence firm behavior today with respect to handling and disposal of nanomaterials.



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## Conclusions

- Virtually all of the Superfund **statutory** authorities are broad enough in theory to cover nanomaterials.
- Key threshold issue is whether any nanomaterials are or will constitute hazardous substances.
- Highlights importance of how EPA assesses and designates nanomaterials under CERCLA and other statutes.
- Emphasizes critical need for EPA to invest in and encourage human health and eco- toxicity data collection and development.

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# Inclusion of Nanomaterials in Tox Testing

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry [ATSDR-235]  
Proposed Substances To Be Evaluated  
for Set 22 Toxicological Profiles

	CAS Number
68 ..... TRICHLOROETHANE .....	025323-89-1
69 ..... HEXACHLOROCYCLOPENTADIENE .....	000077-47-4
70 ..... 1,2-DIPHENYLHYDRAZINE .....	000122-66-7
71 ..... <b>NANOMATERIALS</b>	????
72 ..... VANADIUM .....	007440-62-2
73 ..... FORMALDEHYDE .....	000050-00-0

Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 206 / Thursday, October 25, 2007 / Notices

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## Minimize Risks with LCA and DfE

### Large Potential Benefits, Minimal Downsides

**Dark Green:** Nanotechnology is applied directly to solve environmental problems.

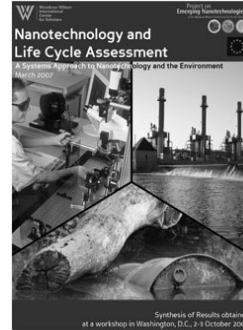
**Light Green:** Nanotechnology provides environmental benefits for other applications.

**Right Green:** Nano-based processes and products are designed to be environmentally low-impact.



# Nano LCA

- Convened in **October 2006** by:
- The European Commission's Nano & Converging Science and Technologies Unit
- EPA's Office of Research & Development, and
- The Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies
- Involved international LCA and nano experts
- **Purpose:** determine whether existing LCA tools and methods are adequate to use on a new technology
- **Key Conclusions:**
- **Use a case-study approach**
- **Do not wait to have near-perfect data (won't exist anyway).**
- **Be modest and open about uncertainties.**
- **Use a critical and independent review to ensure credibility.**
- **Build the knowledge base with an international inventory of evolving nano LCA's.**
- **Use the LCA results to improve the design of products and processes.**
- **Promote best practices and successes.**



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Project  
On  
**Emerging  
Nanotechnologies**

[www.nanotechproject.org](http://www.nanotechproject.org)

**David Rejeski**

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**Email: [david.rejeski@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:david.rejeski@wilsoncenter.org)**

# Overview of ORD Draft Nanotechnology Research Strategy (NRS)

# OUTLINE

- Briefing Purpose
  
- Nanotechnology Research Strategy (NRS)
  - Background
  - Rationale
  - Key Themes and Questions
  - Anticipated results
  
- Path Forward – Next Steps
  
- Writing Team

## Briefing Purpose

- Explain EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) draft NRS (relationship to the EPA White Paper and the Nanotechnology Environmental and Health Implications Workgroup Report (under NNI))
- Stimulate discussion on increased collaboration and linkage of research products

## **Purpose of Strategy**

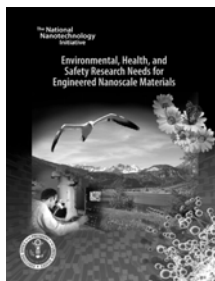
- Guides the nanotechnology research program within EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD)
- Describes initiation of ORD in-house research program
- Builds upon research needs identified in the Agency Nanotechnology White Paper and the NNI
- Describes key research questions under four themes and seven primary research questions





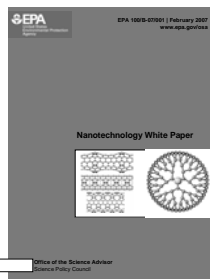
## Rationale

Nanotechnology  
Environmental and Health  
Implications (NEHI)  
Interagency Working Group  
of NSET, (NSTC, 2006)



[http://www.nano.gov/NNI\\_EHS\\_research\\_needs.pdf](http://www.nano.gov/NNI_EHS_research_needs.pdf)

EPA White Paper on  
Nanotechnology (EPA,  
2007)



<http://www.epa.gov/OSA/pdfs/nanotech/epa-nanotechnology-whitepaper-0207.pdf>

Office of Research and Development

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## National Collaboration Activities

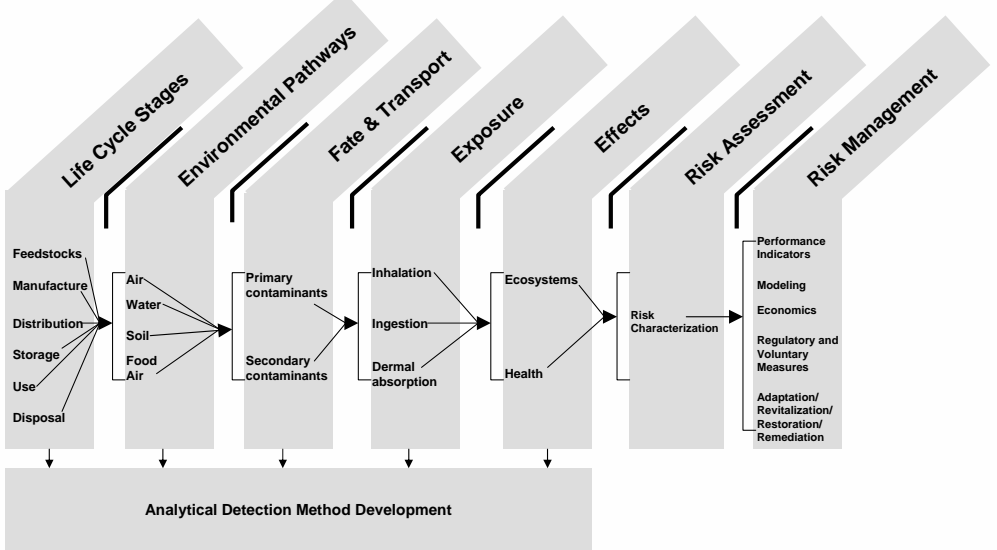
- Joint RFAs – DOE, NIEHS/NIH, NIOSH, and NSF
- Research project collaborations with NTP
- National research strategy collaborations with CPSC, FDA, NIEHS
- International research strategy collaborations with EC, Singapore

## **International Collaboration Activities**

- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Chemicals Committee – Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (WPMN)
- International Meetings – Applications & Implications (Region 5)
- International research strategy collaborations with EC, Singapore
- ANSI, ISO & ASTM participation

## Document Organization

- Introduction
- Background
- Research Strategy Overview
- Research Themes – for each science question:
  - Background/Program Relevance
  - Research Activities
  - Anticipated Outcomes
- Implementation and Research Linkages
- Appendix A – side by side table of White Paper research needs versus ORD research plans
- Appendix B – ORD Description



## **Four Research Themes**

- Sources, Fate, Transport, and Exposure
- Human Health and Ecological Research to Inform Risk Assessment and Test Methods
- Risk Assessment Methods and Case Studies
- Preventing and Mitigating Risks



## **Theme 1: Sources, Fate, Transport, and Exposure**

### **Key Science Questions (Two of Four)**

- Which nanomaterials have a high potential for release from a life-cycle perspective?
- What technologies exist, can be modified, or must be developed to detect and quantify engineered materials in environmental media and biological samples?

## Life Cycle Anticipated Outcomes

- Collaborative effort to identify industries, processes, and products which have relatively high potential to release engineered nanomaterials into the environment
- Determine the industries of importance and identify where gaps in information preclude a full assessment of emission/release points of concern
- Produce a systematic assessment of the production, use, and ultimate fate of nanomaterials to understand the potential for emissions/releases into the environment
- Understand which industries pose the greatest potential to emit/release nanomaterials of concern and to inform decision-makers about the overall impact of engineered nanomaterials
- Conduct assessments for the highest priority industry categories, results of which will be used to guide industry and nanomaterial selection for assessment.
- Produce comparative assessments to inform decision-makers at what stage in the lifecycle of engineered nanomaterials interventions could be used to avoid future environmental impacts.



## Detection – Anticipated Outcomes

- Establishment of research partnerships with NIST, NCI and/or DOE for the purpose of characterizing nanomaterials for laboratory studies
- Development of analytical methods for the detection of carbon-based nanomaterials in environmental matrices
- Development of analytical methods for the detection of non-carbon-based nanomaterials in environmental matrices
- In cooperation with other federal agencies develop standardized reference materials in a variety of representative environmental matrices.

## **Theme 1: Sources, Fate, Transport, and Exposure**

- What are the major processes that govern the environmental fate of engineered nanomaterials, and how are these related to physical and chemical properties of those materials?
- What are the indicators of exposure that will result from releases of engineered nanomaterials?



## **Environmental Fate and Transport – Anticipated Outcomes**

- Develop a scientific understanding of the processes that govern the fate and transport of engineered nanomaterials.
- Develop a scientific understanding and measure the chemical and physical properties of engineered nanomaterials and how they influence and impact the fate and transport processes.
- Identify the exposure pathways associated with production, end-use and disposal in differing environmental matrices of engineered nanomaterials.
- Improve the scientific understanding of detection methodologies for quantifying engineered nanomaterials.
- Develop multiple predictive models for understanding and measuring the transport of engineered nanomaterials

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## **Exposure – Anticipated Results**

- Identification of the dominant exposure pathways to ecological receptors of interest
- An assessment of the applicability of the Agency's current exposure models to nanomaterials
- Identification of the physicochemical properties required to inform exposure
- Identification of indicators of exposure through the application of genomics, proteomics and metabolomics.



## **Theme 2: Human Health and Ecological Research to Inform Risk Assessment and Test Methods**

### **Key Science Question**

- What are the effects of engineered nanomaterials on human and ecological receptors, and how can those effects be best quantified and predicted?

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## Human and Ecological Effects

- Characterization of NM health and ecological effects; identification of physicochemical properties and factors that regulate NM dosimetry, fate, and toxicity
- Identification of testing methods/approaches to predict *in vivo* toxicity of NMs; characterizing molecular expression profiles that may provide biomarkers of NM exposure and/or toxicity
- Provide the necessary expertise for review of premanufacture notice applications and assess the adequacy of harmonized test guidelines from NMs to OPPTS and internationally to OECD.
- Health and ecological research will address the gap in our knowledge regarding the toxicity of nanomaterials which has impeded the ability to conduct accurate life cycle analysis.



## **Theme 3: Risk Assessment Methods and Case Studies**

### **Key Science Question**

- How do Agency risk assessment and regulatory approaches need to be amended to incorporate the special characteristics of engineered nanomaterials?

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## **Risk Assessment – Anticipated Outcomes**

- CEA approach will be used for case studies of selected nanomaterials
- Three case studies incorporating peer consultation input will be developed in FY07 for evaluation in a workshop.
- A summary report of the workshop identifying and prioritizing research needed to support comprehensive assessment of selected nanomaterials will be developed in FY08
- Identification of special properties of nanomaterials in developing data and carrying out risk assessments.



## **Theme 4: Preventing and Mitigating Risks**

### **Key Science Question**

- What technologies or practices can be applied to minimize risks of engineered nanomaterials throughout their life cycle, and to use nanotechnology to minimize other risks?

## Risk Mitigation – Anticipated Results

- An evaluation of the efficacy of existing pollution control approaches and technologies to manage releases of engineered nanomaterials to all media during their production.
- ORD will collaborate with industry and academia to report on opportunities to reduce the environmental implications of nanomaterial production by employing greener synthesis approaches
- ORD will identify design production processes that are sustainable, minimize or eliminate any emissions/releases, and reduce energy consumption during the manufacturing of nanomaterials and products
- ORD will report on the viability and performance on the use of nanotechnology for the abatement and remediation of conventional toxic pollution.

## **Anticipated Outcomes and Next Steps**

- Focused research projects to address risk assessment and management needs for nanomaterials in support of the various environmental statutes for which the EPA is responsible
- Currently undergoing Agency-wide review
- Planned Federal agency (NSET) review
- External peer review – December 2007

## Writing Team

**Nora Savage, Co-Lead**  
**Randy Wentsel, Co-lead**

**Michele Aston, NERL**  
**J. Michael Davis, NCEA**  
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**Barb Walton, NHEERL**  
**Eric Weber, NERL**



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