



International Center for Technology Assessment

660 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 302, Washington, DC 20003
(202) 547-9359 fax (202) 547-9429 www.icta.org

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Nathanael R. Martin
Field and External Affairs Division
Office of Pesticide Programs
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 204600001
telephone number: (703) 305-6475; fax number: (703) 305-5884
e-mail address: martin.nathanael@epa.gov

Docket ID number EPA-HQ-OPP-20080650
*Petition for Rulemaking Requesting EPA Regulate Nanoscale Silver Products as
Pesticides; Notice of Availability*

60-Day Extension Request for Notice and Comment Period

Dear Mr. Martin or To Whom It May Concern:

The International Center for Technology Assessment (ICTA) applauds the agency for opening a docket on our petition and working to address the important issue of nano-silver. ICTA intends on fully participating in the notice and comment process and welcomes this and any other opportunities to communicate with the agency on this topic. ICTA encourages EPA to contact ICTA regarding any questions or clarification on petitioners' views on the topic generally or on individual nano-silver products.

We write at this time to respectfully request a 60-day extension of the January 20, 2009 deadline for public comment on the petition, to March 21, 2009. As the agency has recognized, this is an important issue and as such the agency should gather as much information as possible about its next steps from all interested parties. Between now and January 20th is a very busy transitional time for many interested parties and we are concerned that the current deadline will not be sufficient for some parties to provide comment. The petition and nano-silver issue present many complicated legal and scientific issues and meaningful public input will require a substantial amount of time and effort. The requested extension is necessary to provide interested parties an appropriate opportunity to develop meaningful comments on the petition.

In addition, as the agency is aware, January 20, 2009 is the official transition day to the new Obama Administration. The new administration will undoubtedly have many other

pressing priorities and we are concerned this issue will fall between the cracks. Extending the deadline will allow comments to also be received by the new administration.

Finally, we note that the agency has recently agreed at the behest of industry umbrella councils to extend the deadline 90 days in its proposed rule-making on the data requirements for antimicrobial pesticides. 73 Fed. Reg. 75629 (December 12, 2008). This is a likewise complex and related topic and we urge the agency to act similarly here.

Respectfully submitted,

George Kimbrell
Staff Attorney
International Center for Technology Assessment