

# Peer Review Plan

**Date:** 11/1/2012

**Source Center:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
Texas Water Science Center  
1505 Ferguson Lane  
Austin, TX 78754

**Title:** Cancer Risk from Incidental Ingestion Exposures to PAHs Associated with Coal-Tar-Sealed Pavement.

**Subject and Purpose:** Use of pavement sealants containing coal tar is widespread in the U.S. east of the Continental Divide, and increased cancer risk associated with use of these products therefore likely affects a large number of people. Sale and use of these products have been restricted in some cities (for example, the City of Austin, Tex.) and counties (for example, Dane County, Wisc.) and in the State of Washington. The purpose of this product is to present the findings from a cancer risk assessment associated with incidental ingestion exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in settings near coal-tar-sealed pavement. The assessment found that the estimate of excess cancer risk resulting from lifetime exposures to PAH-contaminated soil and dust via non-dietary ingestion in these settings exceeded  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  in both deterministic and probabilistic central tendency estimates. This manuscript will be submitted to the journal *Environmental Science and Technology (ES&T)* for publication. The lead author of this manuscript is a non USGS scientist; two USGS scientists are co-authors.

**Impact of Dissemination:** This information product is considered by the USGS to be Influential Scientific Information.

**Timing of Review (Including Deferrals):** February – November 2012. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

**Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process:** Review will be by individual e-mail/letters/memoranda/documents or as returned to the authors as an e-mail from *ES&T*. USGS will select a reviewer pursuant to requirements in Survey Manual chapter 502.3—Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review (<http://www.usgs.gov/usgs-manual/500/502-3.html>). Editorial staff at *ES&T* will select reviewers for the journal.

**Expected Number of Reviewers:** Five reviewers are anticipated.

**Requisite Expertise:** Toxicology, human-health risk assessment, or ecotoxicology.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** No, the opportunity for public comment is not formally incorporated into the USGS or *ES&T* peer-review process.

**Agency Contact:** [peer\\_review\\_agenda@usgs.gov](mailto:peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov).