OZONEWS

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1- A Salty Recipe for Ozone Destruction

Each spring, after several dark winter months, the sun begins to rise over the Arctic. At around the same time, the local surface-level ozone begins to decline… Scientists first noted a link between polar sunrise and Arctic ozone removal in 1986. Since then, they have discovered a number of chemicals that lay dormant in the snow but react with sunlight to form pollutants capable of affecting the makeup of the atmosphere. In order to examine how bromine and chlorine figure into this equation, Paul Shepson of Purdue University and his colleagues went to the Arctic last year to measure the levels of these elements In the snow during polar sunrise. They found that in mid-March, as the sun rose over the Arctic, bromine and chlorine levels in the snow began to fall. Their presence in the air, however, increased. Sea salt, it turns out, is the only source of bromine in the Arctic. "Because three quarters of the earth's surface is covered by ocean," Shepson notes, "we've uncovered a process we need to understand much better in terms of our ability to model ozone in the atmosphere." Although it applies to a naturally occurring process, the new research suggests that the combination of snow and salt in urban areas might also affect the atmosphere. "The ingredients from what we observe in the Arctic are sometimes present in high concentrations on the streets of urban areas during the winter months," Shepson observes. "I wouldn't want to make predictions, but there could be a variety of chemical interactions that occur in urban, road-salted environments that we need to understand."
Full Text @: <http://www.sciam.com/news/012201/3.html>
Source: Scientific American, 19 November 2001, By: Kate Wong

2- Environmental Protection Agency 40 CFR Part 82 Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Reconsideration of the 610 Nonessential Products Ban (USA)

This final rulemaking amends the current regulations that implement the statutory ban on nonessential products that release Class I ozone depleting substances under section 610 of the Clean Air Act, as amended. This final rule does not affect the use of Class II ozone-depleting substances. This rulemaking was developed by EPA based on new and compelling information that was gathered and indicates limited continued use by some sectors of Class I substances in products where the use of those substances today should be considered a "nonessential use of Class I substances in a product" based on the availability and widespread use of alternatives. The products affected by this rulemaking are aerosol products, pressurized dispensers, plastic foam products, and air-conditioning and refrigeration products that contain or are manufactured with Class I substances (e.g., chlorofluorocarbons). Through this action, an additional category of products will be added and some products will be removed from the list of banned products (i.e., products that cannot be introduced into interstate commerce).
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 14, 2002. AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). ACTION: Final rule.
Text @: http://library.northernlight.com/FC20011115910000264.html?cb=0&dx=1006&sc=0#doc
<http://library.northernlight.com/FC20011115910000264.html?cb=0&dx=1006&sc=0>
Source: FedNet Government News, 15 November 2001

3- Environmental Protection Agency Request for Applications for Essential Use Exemptions to the Production and Import Phaseout of Ozone Depleting Substances under the Montreal Protocol for the years 2003 and 2004 (USA)

Through this notice, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requesting applications for essential use allowances for calendar years 2003 and 2004. Essential-use allowances provide exemptions to the production and

import phaseout of ozone-depleting substances and must be authorized by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Protocol). The U.S. government will use the applications received in response to this notice as the basis for its nomination of essential use allowances at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to be held in 2002. DATES: Applications for essential use exemptions must be submitted to EPA no later than December 6, 2001 in order for the United States (U.S.) government to complete its review and to submit nominations to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Protocol Parties in a timely manner.
Text @: http://library.northernlight.com/FC20011106770000487.html?cb=0&dx=1006&sc=0#doc <http://library.northernlight.com/FC20011106770000487.html?cb=0&dx=1006&sc=0>
Source: FedNet Government News, 06 November 2001

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html

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