

OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris
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1- **Just wait - and the Hole Will Disappear** (Ireland)

Ninety years ago, when Roald Amundsen and Robert Scott were racing across Antarctica, each seeking to be the first to reach the South Pole, few people had ever heard of ozone. Insofar as its existence was recognised at all, it was widely believed to be present in vast quantities at the sea-side, and responsible for the invigorating effect of a brisk walk along the promenade. That, of course, was nonsense. We now recognise ozone as a tenuous substance which exists predominantly in a very thin layer some 15 miles above the ground, where it provides an essential shield to protect us from harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun... annual wax and wane of Antarctic ozone has occurred regularly ever since. But for once, decisive world-wide action was taken on an environmental challenge. Under the Montreal Protocol, industrialised countries phased out their use of CFCs, and developing nations began a freeze on their production... Researchers believe that, the Montreal Protocol is certain to have the desired effect, and predict that the ozone hole will close for good by 2050. As one expert puts it: 'The science was listened to, policy-makers did something - and it actually worked.'

Article. @: <http://globalarchive.ft.com/globalarchive/article.html?id=020119002965&query=ozone+layer>

Source: Irish Times; 19 January 2002

2- **Pakistan Prepares for Methyl Bromide Phaseout**

... Methyl Bromide is used in Pakistan by the federal department of plant protection for maintaining the international plant quarantine regulatory service in the country. Methyl bromide is a broad-spectrum pesticide used in the control of insect pests, nematodes, pathogens and rodents. Its emission appears to contribute to the thinning of ozone layer allowing the increased amount of radiation to reach the earth's surface with potential impact not only to human health... but to agricultural crops, as well. In the 1995 Vienna meeting under the Montreal, global methyl bromide control was added, along with putting a freeze on methyl bromide use by 2002 and completely phasing it out by 2010 by the industrialized nations. For the non-industrialized countries the deadline was 2005 and in 2015. It is obvious that following its freeze in 2002 this pesticide will become scarce as it is not manufactured in any developing countries. It therefore, becomes imperative on the government of Pakistan to take notice and arrange appropriate substitute of methyl-bromide with the help of the 'national commission for alternate technology' which is being constituted for the promotion of different technologies in the country.

Article @: <http://www.dawn.com/2002/01/28/abr15.htm>

Source: Dawn the Internet (Pakistan), 28 January 2002, By: Shaukat Ali Bhambhro

3- **Removal of Restrictions on Certain Fire Suppression Substitutes for Ozone-Depleting Substances; and Listing of Substitutes** (USA)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to remove restrictions that were previously imposed on the use of certain substitutes for ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) under the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program. Specifically, EPA is proposing to remove restrictions on the use of certain substitutes for halon fire suppression and explosion protection agents that are used in the total flooding end-use... Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time. DATES: Comments must be received in writing by February 28, 2002...

Article @: http://hoovnews.hoovers.com/fp.asp?layout=displaynews&doc_id=NR20020129665.1_410f00b23a3b57a8

Contact: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Margaret Sheppard at (202) 564-9163 or fax (202) 565-2155

Source: Hoover's Online, 29 January 2002

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

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

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