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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Table of Contents:

1- Summary of the 13th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

The 13th Meeting of the Parties (MOP-13) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer convened in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 16-19 October 2001. The meeting was attended by 325 participants from 108 countries, representing governments, UN agencies, and international and non-governmental organizations…
Full Text @: http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/vol19/enb1917e.html
Source: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) http://iisd.ca

2- War Effort Pushes "Green" Issues Aside

Environmental Groups Rethink Agenda As Nation Focuses on Anti-Terror Fight

… environmentalists inside and outside government are carefully recalibrating their policies and actions to avoid any appearance of detracting from the war effort. The little-known controversy over the F-16 is a case in point. At issue was the Air Force's continued use of Halon 1301, a chemical once widely used as a fire suppressant before the United States and other countries signed an agreement in Montreal in 1994 banning its production. According to an EPA study, the release of large amounts of Halon breaks down the ozone layer, which filters out the sun's ultraviolet rays, and increases the threat of skin cancer, malignant melanomas and cataracts. The F-16 -- one of the most widely proliferated aircraft in the U.S. inventory -- is the single largest emitter of Halon 1301. The Air Force suspended its use of Halon 1301 in peace time operations in 1994 but continued to use it for combat missions and dangerous reconnaissance operations, such as flights over southern and northern Iraq. The EPA and Defense Department scientists and researchers repeatedly urged the Air Force to replace Halon 1301 with another chemical they said was equally effective, but the Air Force refused, challenging their testing methods…
Full Text @: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A24436-2001Oct20.html
Source: The Washington Post Online, 21 October 2001, By Eric Pianin, Staff Writer

3- Lingering Ozone Hole Threat to New Zealand

Scientists predict a late breakup of the ozone hole over Antarctica, which means New Zealanders will face increased skin cancer risks this summer. The hole had been relatively stable and circular, suggesting it would probably last into November or December, scientist Stephen Wood said. The "hole" allows more harmful ultraviolet radiation to penetrate the atmosphere and hastens the onset of sunburn, and the accompanying risk of skin cancer in later life. By the weekend, the ozone hole had an area of more than 20 million sq km, 5 million sq km larger than last year's hole at the same date.
Source: New Zealand Herald, 24 October 2001, **@:**
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=224143&thesection=news&thesubsection=general

4- Subsidiary Cipher Pharmaceuticals Files Investigational New Drug

... Canadian Medical Laboratories Limited, a leading-edge healthcare company, announced its wholly owned subsidiary, Cipher Pharmaceuticals, has filed Investigational New Drug (IND) applications with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Canadian Therapeutics Product Directorate for a dry powder inhaler formulation

of Budesonide, a prophylactic treatment of asthma and other pulmonary diseases… Dr. Ian French, Chairman and Chief Scientific Officer of Cipher Pharmaceuticals, said, "this filing brings Cipher into a new area of drug delivery. This product represents the entry into the very lucrative field of pulmonary drug administration using Dry Powder Inhaler technology. With the institution of the Montreal Protocol, CFC use for pulmonary delivery to the lungs is no longer acceptable, and there is an unfulfilled need to develop new technologies for delivering drugs to the lungs…
Contact: Canadian Medical Laboratories Limited: www.canmedlab.com
Full Text @: http://www.stockhouse.ca/news/news.asp?tick=CLC&newsid=942572
Source: StockHouse Canada-News, 19 October 2001

5- Slow Electrons are "killing" Ozone

Tilmann Märk from the Institute of Ion Physics at the University of Innsbruck and his team have, with the support of the Austrian Science Fund, developed unique methods and equipment to examine the interaction of electrons with atoms, molecules and clusters. And their research has been successful -- they have made a number of discoveries, including a new ozone destruction process, and they have clearly established the binding energy of the "buckyball", C60 , which has long since been the subject of international research. The destruction of the ozone in the earth's atmosphere has many different causes, many of which are unknown. Tilmann Märk and his team, in cooperation with University College London, have identified a phenomenon which was hitherto considered impossible, but which basically constitutes another ozone destruction process. "We have proved what was previously considered impossible: slow, thermal electrons are taken up by the ozone. This happens with great frequency and has a detrimental effect on the atmosphere, since this destroys the ozone," explains Märk. Since there are a great number of these slow electrons in the ionosphere, it is clear that the many ozone models must be recalculated in light of these results and the simulations must be re-worked...
Contact: Tilmann.Maerk@uibk.ac.at
Full Text @: http://www.spacer.com/news/carbon-01f.html
Source: Asia Pacific Space Centre (APSC), 15 October 2001

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

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

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