

Fact Sheet - A Study of Biodegradable Microbeads

OVERVIEW

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) will work with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) to conduct a study of biodegradable microbeads. A background study will begin upon receipt of an application from a manufacturer or a group of manufacturers of personal care products. An additional microbead specific study will determine if any biodegradable microbead is available for use that meets CT DEEP requirements. The CT DEEP requirements for a plastic microbead to be deemed biodegradable are defined in the Connecticut General Statutes written to create this project. Any biodegradable microbead must not adversely impact the environment or treatment plants in the state of Connecticut.

STUDY COMPONENTS

The study will be conducted via a two phase approach. Reports from both phases and all efforts will be paid through fees from invested industrial manufacturers that have an interest in utilizing biodegradable microbeads in their products.

Phase one will focus on a broad overview of microbeads in industry and products. Both synthetic and any claimed biodegradable products will be described in this report. Additional information will focus on the fate and transport of microbeads in existing systems and also a description of any known methods used to determine if a microbead is biodegradable. There will be a set fee for participation in this study. This fee will be divided amongst all of the manufacturers that submit intent to have a microbead product evaluated for biodegradability.

Phase two of the study will be an evaluation of each individual microbead that is submitted from industrial manufacturers. The focus will be on the projected biodegradation time period of the microbead under review. Evaluation will center on the physical breakdown of the microbead, not an evaluation of chemical by-products. No manufacturer shall be permitted to submit an individual microbead for evaluation that did not take part in phase one of the study. There will be a set fee of per microbead product and composition. This fee will be paid by each manufacturer per microbead that is submitted for evaluation.

All evaluations, analysis, research and report drafting will be conducted by a study committee assembled and coordinated by CASE that will comprise of experts in the field of microbeads and their existence in natural and manmade systems.

CALENDAR

Deliverable/Task	Date	To/From
Submit request for study of microbeads and biodegradability deadline	August 15, 2016	From Manufacturers - To CASE
Completed Study and Evaluation Report(s)	No later than December 15, 2017	From CASE - To CT DEEP, Manufacturers
Review and report on the final report	No Later than February 1, 2018	From DEEP - To CGA Environment Committee