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## Regulatory Council Publishes Cancer Policy

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## REGULATORY COUNCIL PUBLISHES CANCER POLICY

The White House Regulatory Council published its cancer policy September 28th. The policy is not final, but it is important as the culmination of extended discussion on a government-wide policy for the regulation of potentially harmful substances.

The Council's policy for control of hazardous substances states:

1. Agencies should consider "zero risks" for carcinogens; however, they are free to assess this goal in light of the accompanying social and economic costs of achieving it, except when prohibited by law (i.e., the Delaney Amendment to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act).
2. In considering and planning cancer prevention strategies, the agencies will consider the degree of risk represented by a substance, the numbers of persons exposed to that risk, the estimated individual lifetime risk to an exposed population, and the type of exposure. The agencies should also identify and consider possible alternatives, as well as identify the least costly and least disruptive course of action.
3. While animal tests are valid methods for determining whether a substance will be carcinogenic in people, statements of biological and statistical uncertainties in quantitative risk assessments derived from these studies should accompany these test results.
4. To reduce unnecessary duplication by agencies, the separate agencies should work through the Interagency Regulatory Liaison Group to coordinate the development of their regulations on different substances.

L.S.R.