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EVENT & WEBCAST INVITATION

RSVP: nano@wilsoncenter.org

April 28, 2008

Oversight of Next Generation Nanotechnology *Former EPA Official Calls for New Regulatory Agency*

WASHINGTON – When the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was founded, automobiles ran on leaded gasoline without catalytic converters. DDT (*Dichloro-Diphenol-Trichloroethane*) was one of the most widely used pesticides in the world. CFCs (*Chlorofluorocarbons*) were in use as propellants in aerosol cans and coolants in air conditioners, and Ohio’s Cuyahoga River sporadically caught fire in Cleveland when passing trains ignited oil slicks on the surface.

Today, regulators face the challenge of advancing nanotechnologies—with designer molecules and smart materials. They are hindered by a regulatory system more appropriate for a 1970 Chevy truck than a 2005 nanocar—the world’s first single-molecule “car” and a step toward molecular manufacturing.

A landmark report by J. Clarence (Terry) Davies, *Oversight of Next Generation Nanotechnology*, describes how existing health and safety agencies are unable to cope with the risk assessment, standard setting and oversight challenges of 21st century technology. Davies offers bold new ideas, laws and an organizational structure to deal with the effects of emerging technologies. He proposes mold-breaking ways to incorporate the lessons learned in the nearly four decades since EPA’s founding, including more integrated approaches for oversight and monitoring.

The changes discussed in the report will not happen overnight. But the report marks an important step in opening the debate about creating a new regulatory system capable of coping with the rapid pace of technological innovation and making the changes needed to revitalize government oversight for protection of environment, health and safety.

Former EPA official J. Clarence Davies is one of the nation’s foremost authorities on environmental regulation and policy. His new report includes a preface by the first EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus.

*** Webcast LIVE at www.wilsoncenter.org ***

What: Release of a new report, *Oversight of Next Generation Nanotechnology*

When: **Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 12:30 – 1:30 PM**
(Light lunch available at 12:00 noon)

Who: **J. Clarence (Terry) Davies**, Senior Advisor, Project on Emerging



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Nanotechnologies, and Senior Fellow, Resources for the Future.
David Rejeski, Director, Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies

Where: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 5th Floor Conference Room. The Wilson Center is located in the Ronald Reagan Building at 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC; see: www.wilsoncenter.org/directions

To attend this event, RSVP to nano@wilsoncenter.org. No RSVP is required to view the Webcast.

Media planning to cover the event should contact Colin Finan at (202) 691-4321 or at colin.finan@wilsoncenter.org.

The **Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies** was launched in 2005 by the **Wilson Center** and **The Pew Charitable Trusts**. It is a partnership dedicated to helping business, governments, and the public anticipate and manage the possible health and environmental implications of nanotechnology. To learn more, visit www.nanotechproject.org.

About Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is the ability to measure, see, manipulate and manufacture things usually between 1 and 100 nanometers. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter; a human hair is roughly 100,000 nanometers wide. In 2007, the global market for goods incorporating nanotechnology totaled \$147 billion. Lux Research projects that figure will grow to \$3.1 trillion by 2015.

Dr. Davies' report was made possible by a grant from the European Commission to support projects on "Transatlantic methods for handling global challenges." His report is based on independent research and does not represent the views of the European Commission or the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. For more information, go to: www.lse.ac.uk/nanoregulation.