

## ***Burkholderia cepacia* ; TSCA Regulatory aspects**

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In 2001, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation approached EPA with a petition under a provision of the Toxic Substances Control Act to regulate members of the “*Burkholderia cepacia* complex” (BCC) used for commercial applications (not including pesticides). EPA responded by evaluating the risks of such organisms in the context of uses subject to TSCA rules. The assessment considered a range of issues associated with this diverse group of widely distributed bacteria. Members of this group have some potential utility for such things as bioremediation and inclusion in drain cleaner mixes, based on the extensive set of biocatalytic enzymes they frequently possess. However, many isolates of this group, especially those used to define new species within the complex, are found to be associated with serious infections of susceptible human populations including but not limited to CF patients. This talk will address the characteristics of the BCC which simultaneously contribute to its potential as a remediation agent and as an opportunistic pathogen. The bases for a determination by EPA to limit use of these agents for TSCA purposes will be described, as well as more recent scientific observations about the characteristics of the group.