

Press Release Regarding Draft EPA Documents

*The documents in R025D are **Bates # 2021179814 (19901128) and # 2501250440 (19901203)**. They are a draft and final copy of a press release regarding the release of draft EPA documents on environmental tobacco smoke.*

Author: The Tobacco Institute, an organization formed by the tobacco companies, whose purpose was to defeat legislation unfavorable to the industry and to maintain the controversy over the relationship of smoking and health. **Addressee:** The general public.

The stakes for the tobacco industry were high in the climate surrounding the release of this press conference in December of 1990 on the issue of environmental tobacco smoke and its link to cancer deaths in nonsmokers. In January of that year, all major domestic airlines instituted a smoking ban on domestic flights of less than six hours. Legislation in San Luis Obispo, California, outlawed smoking in all public buildings, including bars and restaurants---the first ever of this kind of legislation.

This press release criticizes draft EPA documents on environmental tobacco smoke the day before the documents were released, citing methodological and statistical weaknesses in the report. It highlights the analyses of some of the scientists scheduled to present critiques at the meeting, noting three who had criticisms of the documents. It specifically notes that the workplace policy guide would be reviewed by the Science Advisory Board, but concludes that workplace guidelines from the EPA are inappropriate due to inadequate data and unsupported science. The press release ends with the assertion that it is unreasonable "...to infer that ETS exposure causes lung cancer, let alone to attempt to quantify or predict risk."