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Media Contact:
Anna Sczepanski, on behalf of CLER
asczepanski@kellencompany.com, 212-297-2162

Council for LAB/LAS Environmental Research Publishes *CLER Review,* Volume 16

Journal Provides Analysis of Latest Scientific Research on Leading Cleaning Agent

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 13, 2018) – The Council for LAB/LAS Environmental Research (CLER) has released Volume 16 of its technical journal, *The CLER Review*, a publication of the latest scientific research and public policy information on linear alkylbenzene sulfonate (LAS) and its precursor, linear alkylbenzene (LAB). LAS is a surfactant used in laundry detergents and cleaning products and is one of the most widely used – and widely studied – chemicals in the world.

"The studies in this issue offer a valuable account of environmental research on LAS," said **Dr. Ricky Stackhouse of Sasol North America** and the Chairman of CLER. Stackhouse noted, "This volume of *The CLER Review* addresses the issue of LAS's perceived environmental risk versus years of existing research that has concluded that LAS is not a high risk chemical. This volume also highlights the latest research into the fate, aquatic toxicity and overwhelming supports the environmental safety of LAS."

In addition to the overview, this volume of *The CLER Review* is comprised of four articles -- three recently published studies and an original review article. The review article, written by Heinze and McAvoy (2018), provides a commentary on a short-cut approach to risk ranking proposed by Johnson et al. (2017), which identified a number of environmental chemicals, including LAS, as high risk compounds. Heinze and McAvoy review the available literature and point out the abundant data available, beyond risk ranking, on the highlighted compounds. Multiple environmental risk assessments have concluded that LAS is not a high risk chemical, contradicting the conclusion of the Johnson et al report.

The recently published studies in Volume 16 of *The CLER Review* provide outstanding examples of the latest research on LAS. In the first study, Belanger et al. (2016) have improved the prediction of a key aquatic safety parameter for LAS, a value that depends on the understanding of how LAS aquatic toxicity varies with average alkyl chain length. In the second study, Menzies et al. (2017) used OECD 314A guideline studies to determine the rate and pathways of biodegradation in sewer pipes (prior to sewage treatment) of four of the most widely used cleaning agents (surfactants) in North American cleaning products. In the third study, McDonough et al (2016) used advanced analytical methods to measure the concentrations of surfactants, including LAS, in effluent samples from around the country. The mean measured LAS concentration was consistent with previously reported effluent levels and, once again, supports the fact that LAS is well removed during wastewater treatment.

To download a copy of Volume 16 of *The CLER Review*, click here.

About CLER

The Council for LAB/LAS Environmental Research (CLER) is an organization of scientists and technical specialists representing manufacturers of linear alkylbenzene (LAB) and linear alkylbenzene sulfonate (LAS). CLER's mission is to conduct research and distribute scientific information on the environmental safety of LAS, the world's number one cleaning ingredient, and LAB, the material from which it is produced. To learn more, visit **www.cler.com**.

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