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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND COMMENTARY  
NANOTECHNOLOGY'S CURRENT STATE, MEANING AND WORTH

## Press Release

# Distinguishing Fact from Story in Nanotechnology Safety

**Jersey City, NJ :** Alan Shalleck, President of NanoClarity LLC of Princeton and Jersey City, NJ, and publisher of **NanoClarity, a monthly e-newsletter** distributed to subscribers over the Internet at [www.nanoclarity.com](http://www.nanoclarity.com), said today:

This week is the most important week in the Nanotechnology in three years. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has held its first full public meeting on nanotechnology safety and environmental risk, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has placed a Notice of Rule making re. Nanotech product commercial release requirements in the Congressional Record. These two agencies have the potential to shut down the evolving nanotechnology industry before it begins to grow ... an unacceptable prospect.

Let us hope that the FDA and the EPA leadership understand the positive potential of nanotechnology, will be able to separate fact from story, will not be swayed by the emotional scare mongers and rumor spreaders, and will chose a safe, responsible path of growth-oriented, permissive regulation for nanotechnology in the world. The US nanotech industry needs such a justly designed, but loosely regulated, environment to reach the potential the nano-pundits proclaim. Society stands only to lose from any other approach to nanosafety and to nanotech environmental regulation.

I am not an apologist the nanotech industry. I want this world safe for my kids and their children as much anyone. However, as an MIT trained professional, I have always let analysis of the facts, and of the scientific data, determine my views. Since the potential for safety and environmental damage may, worst case, exist in selected nanotechnology applications, I have immersed myself in the literature and in the multi-issue studies. I have had extensive discussions with those who are rightly concerned that nanotech follow the precept, "first do no harm!" At the conferences this fall, safety and environmental concerns have been primary discussion topics and I have participated in those sessions. I have even reviewed nanotech futures with some of those well meaning but emotional, mutant projecting, publicity seeking, non-profits (like the Woodrow Wilson group, NRDC, ETC Group, Friend of the Earth, etc.) to extract their arguments and data. I have followed a carefully designed informational gathering path to learn all positions and to accumulate all data to date to be fair in my positioning.

The primary FACT about nanotechnology safety today is that safety is ***not an immediate issue***. Everything else is STORY ... and regulatory actions are not built around story! At a recent MIT conference on nanotech safety and environmental effects, the scientists on the various panels unanimously concluded that no ... I repeat ... no short term or long-term harmful effects have been found. That was also the conclusion of the speakers at this week's FDA nanotechnology open session. Moreover, the German BFR (government risk assessment agency), the Australian Department of Health and Aging, and other international governmental and NGO groups have argued similarly. There is no immediate emergency. There is no evidence for over regulation. No massive deaths, human disfigurements or extensive harm to the environment are imminent. (continued on page 2.)

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