

**ENGO Perspectives on Chemicals Policy in the Great Lakes Region: Observations from a Survey** 

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- Recognition of decreasing environmental nongovernmental organization (ENGO) involvement in Binational Toxics Strategy (BTS) in recent years, and questions about broader extent of ENGO work on chemicals policy issues in recent past and currently.
- Overall goal was to assess, via a survey, ENGO activity level on chemicals policy work in the region
- Specific objectives included assessing changes (and reasons) in ENGO chemicals policy work in recent past, assessment of BTS and desired characteristics of a BTS-type forum, and desired characteristics of revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)

# Approach

- Conducted online survey of ENGOs with activity in Great Lakes region (SurveyMonkey, June 18-30, 2010)
- Survey used skip logic/multiple sections, with introductory questions on organizational background, sections covering general chemicals policy work (regulatory and voluntary/other), and sections with specific questions on BTS, GLWQA, and general interest in advancing chemicals policy in region.
- Groups to survey identified based on number of considerations, including previous involvement in BTS, GLWQA, and existing coalitions (e.g. Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition)

Country	# Surveyed	Responses	% Responses
Canada	80	28	35.0
U.S.	100	45	45.0
Total	180	73	40.6

### **Type of Organization Responding (N = 73)**



# **Geographic Base of Organization/Office of Respondents**



# **US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT**

# **Breakdown of Staffing Level in Organization/Office**



## **Extent of Chemicals Policy Work**



### **Relative Emphasis of Chemicals Policy Work - Regulatory**



N = number of respondents for given response; percentages calculated for each response

### **Relative Emphasis of Chemicals Policy Work – Voluntary/Other**



Percent of Respondents

### **Relative Emphasis of Work on Specific Chemicals**



**US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT** 

### **Change in Chemicals Policy Work Over Past Decade**



### **Reasons for Increased Chemicals Policy Work**



Percent of Respondents

### **Reasons for Decreased Chemicals Policy Work**



# **US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT**

# **Positive Aspects and Reasons for Disengagement from BTS\***

Positives	Reasons for Disengagement	
Binational aspect	Staffing changes/ travel limitations	
Collaboration/coordination between sectors	Limited accountability/ assessment of progress	
Discussions/information sharing	Too narrowly focused strategy	
Some progress/creative programs	Lack of attention to most significant sources/problems	
Action plans, reports	Organizational focus on NPS, local issues	

\*: Selected responses, for those (N = 10) stating awareness and previous involvement **Bold**: Identified by more than one respondent

### **Engagement in BTS-type process in future?**

Yes: 5 No: 1 Not sure: 4

### **Desired Characteristics of BTS-Type Process\***



\*: For those (N = 10) stating awareness and previous involvement

### **Involvement in GLWQA Activities\***



\*: For respondents familiar with GLWQA and toxic chemical goals

### **Desired Characteristics in Revised GLWQA\***



\*: For respondents familiar with GLWQA and toxic chemical goals

# Summary

- Relatively large number of ENGOs remain active to varying degrees on Great Lakes chemicals policy issues
- Activities with more significant involvement include at state/provincial and national levels; high involvement in consumer products and fish consumption advisories, and mercury, pesticides, and chemicals of emerging concern
- Equal proportion of groups (25%) doing more as compared to less chemicals policy work than previously
- Characteristics to encourage involvement of former participants in BTS-type forum include aggressive goals/objectives/timeline, regular reporting, more accountability mechanisms, and evidence of effectiveness
- Many components desired in revised GLWQA, including retained central purpose, zero discharge/virtual elimination goals, and clear governance/accountability framework

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