

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy Integration Workgroup Meeting

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EPA Region 5 Offices
Chicago, Illinois

PCBs

Work Group Co-Chairs:

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PCB Challenge Goals

Canada

- 90% reduction of high-level PCBs (>10,000ppm)
- Accelerate destruction of stored high-level PCB wastes

Progress Overview:

- Goals met for PCBs in storage & accelerated destruction
- Reductions underway for PCBs in service

United States

- 90% reduction of high-level PCBs (>500 ppm)
- Proper management and disposal of PCBs removed from use

Progress Overview:

- Goals likely met:
 - ◆ Insufficient data to accurately determine status
 - ◆ Insufficient Capacitor data

Progress Toward the Challenge Goals: Canada

Challenge Goals Met:

- 90.5% reduction of high-level PCBs *in storage* in Ontario (compared to 1993 baseline)
- Less than 400 PCB storage sites are remaining in Ontario (down from 1,529 in 1993)

Other Progress/Challenge Goals Underway:

- Updated PCB inventory data received in response to outreach; currently being incorporated into National Inventory Database
- Reductions being made for *in-service* PCBs

Progress Toward the Challenge Goals: Canada

- In 2010, Canada amended the PCB regulations published in 2008 to accelerate the elimination of PCBs in use and storage. The regulations set deadlines for the phase-out of PCBs in use and storage and require reporting by PCB owners.
- EC continues to promote compliance with the PCB regulations and recent amendment.
- A progress report for the PCB regulations is being developed and will be published at the end of the year at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/bpc-pcb/>.

Progress Toward the Challenge Goals: U.S.

Reduction Estimates:

- According to the PCB Transformer Registration Database, approximately 11,324 PCB transformers were registered with EPA
 - ◆ Approximately 12,457 locations are also registered
- Based on annual disposal data from 2009, an estimated 57,000 PCB transformers and 1,292,000 large PCB capacitors remain in use in the U.S.
 - ◆ Estimate obtained by subtracting the annual disposal data from the 1994 baseline
 - ◆ Currently developing more updated calculations of population
 - ◆ EPA considering better update to current baseline
- EPA has been collecting information as part of its rulemaking process involving the re-evaluation of PCB Use Authorizations to better inform the baselines

Progress Toward the Challenge Goals: U.S.

- EPA currently compiling and evaluating several new data elements:
 - ◆ PCB Rulemaking Process Information
 - ◆ Transformer registration data
 - ◆ Updated disposal data
 - ◆ General Information Provided to EPA
- Because of the rulemaking process, much information has come to EPA's attention that has not been available previously
- With these elements, EPA hopes to better identify PCB quantity, location and other management information

Path Forward (U.S.)

- Continue to seek PCB reduction commitments as part of energy system upgrades (energy efficiency projects)
 - ◆ Stakeholder PCB Phase-out Efforts – (examples: inspection/enforcement projects; PCB fluorescent light ballasts)
 - ◆ PCB and related Pollution Prevention efforts with States
- Continue to update PCB equipment inventories
 - ◆ Proposed Rulemaking (U.S.)
 - ◆ Software Tool for Evaluating PCB Transformer Phase-Out

PCBs – Actions Still Required (Canada)

- Continued Promotion of the current PCB Regulations
 - ◆ Enforcement inspections of historically known facilities with in-use or stored high level equipment are currently being carried out.
 - ◆ Light ballasts and Pole-top Electrical Transformers are to be phased out by December 31, 2025.

- Targeted Activities for Older Buildings within Ontario
 - ◆ Larger non-sector specific buildings, built before the 1980's, may still contain PCB equipment
 - ◆ Examples include apartment buildings, hotels and shopping malls