North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Tri-National Chemicals Management

Four Point Concept

December, 2007
Sound Management Of Chemicals

• 1995 - Established by Ministerial Mandate
  – Implementing North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs) as top priorities:
    – chlordane, DDT, PCBs, mercury, lindane, dioxins/furans,
    – environmental monitoring and assessment

• 2006 - Ministers approved mandate to look ahead at groups of chemicals and sectors
Sound Management Of Chemicals

• Looking ahead
  – Advance international objectives
    • (SAICM, WSSD 2020 Goals)
    • Stockholm POP’s, UNEP Mercury
    • Security and Prosperity Partnership
  – Support regional work
    • GLBTS (US/Canada)
    • NEG/ECP (US States/Canadian Provinces)
    • Border 2012 (US/Mexico)
Cooperative Strategy Concepts

- Sustainable Approach to Monitoring
- Foundation for Chemicals Management
- Reduce the Risk from Chemicals
- Improve Sectors’ Environmental Performance
Sustainable Approach to Monitoring

• Promote long-term sustainability of environmental and human bio-monitoring
  – Trends analysis takes time
  – Integrate industry, academic monitoring networks into a regional effort.

• Includes both Environmental and Human Health
  – Consideration of regional, continental, global sources.
Sustainable Approach to Monitoring

Performance Objectives

- undertaken with common compatible approaches;
- sustainable from a national infrastructure perspective;
- of high importance/priority at the decision makers level, meeting both national and international needs;
- produce high quality information;
- link and contribute to the CEC’s North American Atlas and State of the Environment initiatives; and,
- identify long term financial needs and commitments.
Foundation for Chemicals Management

- Reduce risk of human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals
  - sharing information on chemical management
  - making the chemicals management tools compatible between the three parties
  - helping Mexico build national capacity
Foundation for Chemicals Management

Performance Objectives

- report on the production, use, import/export of chemicals;
- include information on pollution data;
- link to work under the Trade and Environment priorities of the CEC;
- share information for risk assessment and risk management;
- promote a legal framework
  - notification schemes for new chemicals;
  - cleaner production incentives;
  - pollution prevention initiatives;
  - classification and labeling requirements/practices; and
  - regulation of existing chemicals;
- strengthen the Parties’ capacity to enforce regulations; and
- improvements in information sharing to help reduce illegal traffic of chemical substances.
Reduce/eliminate risk of exposure

• Implement trilateral actions to reduce the risk of exposure to chemicals of concern such as transboundary and bioaccumulative chemicals

• Develop a North American program to prioritize and assess chemicals, groups of chemicals or sectors of mutual concern

• Continue with the work that has been established through the NARAPs

• Emerging chemicals’ issues
  • Brominated Flame Retardants
  • Nanotechnology
  • Polyfluorinated alkyl compounds
Reduce/eliminate risk of exposure

Performance Objectives

• Promote discussion of emerging substances and groups of chemicals.
• Develop and initiate risk reduction strategies where mutual concern is acknowledged for existing or emerging substances, groups of substances or sectors
• Complete the development and implementation of previous Council approved North American Regional Action Plans
• Ensure the anticipated success of previous and future SMOC initiatives through monitoring and oversight by the Monitoring and Assessment Standing Committee.
Improve Sectors’ Environmental Performance

– Promote and undertake case studies including improvements in:
  • greening design and supply chains, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, recyclability, setting standards, purchasing policies, and the appropriate disposal of waste; while taking consideration of trade and competitiveness
– consider environmental incentives, such as subsidies, that encourage sound chemicals management;
– enhance regional approaches can contribute to trade linkages; and
– collaborate to avoid duplication with global and North American partners such as
  • the North American Pollution Prevention Partnership (NAP3) work on electronics,
  • The International Consumer Electronics Association
  • The International Council of Chemical Associations
  • The Association of International Automobile Manufacturers
Improve Sectors’ Environmental Performance

Performance Objectives

• Working with key sectors to improve environmental performance
• Facilitate transportation of chemicals across borders while ensuring the health and safety of humans and the environment
• Encourage industry to meet global environmental standards and promote:
  • Examples
    – greening the design of electronics
    – greening the automotive sector
    – green cleaning products
    – reducing Mercury exposure in hospital sector
Environmental Monitoring & Assessment Initiative (EM&A)

- Provide scientific advice for sound environmental decision-making from a NA perspective by:
  - increasing comparability, reliability, relevance, availability of data and information on persistent toxic substances in NA environment
  - establishing baselines, trends, effects related to proposed control actions
- Within the frameworks the 4 concept area
  - Accomplished through ongoing commitment of experts and resources from the Parties
  - seed funding from the CEC to catalyze international funding agency support