US ERA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



#### Sound Management Of Chemicals

- Aligning North American priorities for chemicals management
- Implementing North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs) as top priorities:
  - chlordane, DDT, PCBs, mercury, lindane, dioxins/furans,
  - environmental monitoring and assessment
- Helping the three countries to advance international objectives
  - (SAICM, WSSD 2020 Goals)
  - Stockholm POP's
  - OECD



# CEC's Sound Management of Chemicals Program New Direction

- Considerations for Strategies for Catalyzing Cooperation
- Involve all stakeholders on a more active level
- Linking international forums such as SAICM, UNEP, GLBTS, OECD, etc.
- Strengthen tri-lateral partnership
- Develop strategies to secure outside partnerships and funding

## Four primary concepts

- Reduce the Risk from Chemicals of Concern to North America
- Promotion of a Sustainable Regional Approach to Monitoring and Assessment of Toxic Chemicals
- Improve Environmental Performance of Sectors for Sound Management of Chemicals
- Establish a Foundation for Chemicals Management Across North America

## Concept 1 Description

 Reduce/eliminate risk of exposure to chemicals of concern to the population and environment of North America,

#### Mechanisms being considered

- 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 asses 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



## Concept 2 Description

- 2. Develop/implement sustainable regional approach to environmental and eco-health monitoring
- Mechanisms being considered
  - Promote long-term sustainability
  - Encourage communication, collaboration
  - integrate industry, academic monitoring networks into a regional effort.
  - Ensure information is useful and relevant to decision makers
    - regional, continental, global scale.
- Examples of potential projects
  - PRONAME
  - "Information Road Map"
  - High Production Volume Chemicals



## Concept 3 Description

- 3. Improve Environmental Performance of Sectors for Sound Management of Chemicals
- Mechanisms being considered
  - 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: Efficient production processes, Preventative strategies and Cleaner production technologies
  - Examples
    - greening the design of electronics
    - greening the automotive sector
    - green cleaning products
    - reducing Mercury exposure in hospital sector



## Concept 4 Description

4. Establish a Foundation for Chemicals Management Across North America

in order to reduce of risk of human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals

#### through:

- sharing information on chemical management policies, institutions and processes that can be adopted trilaterally
- making the chemicals management tools compatible between the three parties
- helping Mexico build their national capacity on the sound management of chemicals
- Cont'd

## Concept 4 Description

- 4. Establish Foundation for Chemicals Management Across North America (cont'd)
- Mechanisms being considered
  - Provide a foundation for a NA approach to the safe manufacture, transport, use and disposal of chemicals
  - Identify chemical management approaches that are of interest to all three Parties
  - Build stronger partnerships between the three Parties to share information, knowledge and experience
- Examples
  - Inventory of Chemicals in Commerce in Mexico
  - Updating Mexico's mercury emissions inventory
  - Workshop to share information on chemical inventory development



## **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 of capacity building and international cooperation
- Accomplished through ongoing commitment of experts and resources from the Parties and seed funding from the CEC

#### **Recent EM&A Actions**

- Conduct analytical chemistry QA/QC trials
- Support mercury wet deposition pilot project
- Mercury ambient air monitoring
- Air monitoring for DDT and other selected POPs in Southern Mexico, ¿Impacts on Great Lakes?
- Assessment of trilateral monitoring for NARAP chemicals
- Maternal blood sampling for POPs and heavy metals in Canada USA and Mexico





