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Ontario: Prioritization of Chemical Substances within a Toxics Reduction Strategy

Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy
Substances and Sectors Workgroup Meeting
June 2, 2008

Overview

- Ontario government's commitments for a Toxics Use Reduction Strategy
- Early thinking
- Provincial vs. federal regulation of chemicals
- Screening chemicals
- Links to other programs



Government Commitments

- Ontario government has committed to:
 - Develop new toxic reduction legislation by fall 2008;
 - Work with Cancer Care Ontario and the Ontario Medical Association to address carcinogens in the Ontario environment;
 - Provide funding and technical assistance to industry for technology development/green chemistry initiatives;
 - Ban the cosmetic use of pesticides across the province; and
 - Appoint an expert panel to support development of the legislation and overall strategy.

Toxics Reduction Legislation

- Early thinking includes...:
 - Reporting of use and emissions for prioritized chemicals;
 - Pollution prevention planning / reduction actions; and
 - Community-Right-To-Know component to inform the public re the use and emission of prioritized chemicals.



Research and Technical Assistance

- Early thinking includes:
 - Funding for:
 - research of alternatives (e.g. green chemistry).
 - Innovative technologies
 - Technical assistance to assist small business

Education and Outreach

- Early thinking includes:
 - Development of a toxics information portal to inform the public about exposure to toxics in their environment
 - Outreach to industry on benefits of toxic use reduction



External Expert Panel

- Appointed by the Minister; includes medical and scientific experts
- Tasked with advising on:
 - how the government should best address Bisphenol-A (BPA);
 - priority substances for action under the Strategy; and
 - development of toxics legislation and other elements of the Strategy.

Overview of Federal, National and Provincial Chemicals Assessment and Management



Prioritizing Chemicals

- Scope of the Strategy will include toxics in air, land, water and consumer products
- The number and type of substances targeted for action will depend on the objective of the legislation or specific program
- MOE is screening chemicals in a number of different ways to inform prioritization in Ontario:
 - 1) Current Industrial Emissions,
 - 2) Environmental Presence, and
 - 3) Residential Sources and Exposure

Context for Chemical Screening

- Current Industrial Emissions
 - Which chemicals would be candidates for reporting and use reduction/replacement as well as technology development?
These chemicals are candidates for inclusion in legislation.
- Environmental Presence
 - Which chemicals are present in the Ontario environment and require action or assessment of the sources, fate and impacts?
- Residential Sources and Exposure
 - Which chemicals are a concern due to their residential use based on exposure as well as release to the environment?

Current Emissions Screen

- Information Reviewed:
 - **Release Data:** e.g., National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) and Great Lakes Toxic Air Emissions
 - **Hazard/Risk Scores:** (e.g., Risk Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) and Screening and Ranking Assessment Model (SCRAM))
 - **Carcinogenicity:** (e.g., International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC))
 - **Existing Priority Lists:** review of priority lists (e.g., for reductions, reporting, review) from various agencies and jurisdictions targeting substances of concern to human or environmental health



Environmental Presence and Residential Exposure/Sources Screen

- Information reviewed:
 - **Existing Priority Lists:** review of priority lists (e.g., for reductions, reporting, review) from various agencies and jurisdictions targeting substances of concern to human or environmental health
 - **Use, Release, or Monitoring Data:** Chemicals that can be detected or are suspected to be present; evaluation of trends
 - **Criteria:** Where available, compare to monitoring data
- Challenges regarding lack of analytical methods or limited information regarding exposure



Links

- Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy
 - Substances and Sectors work groups
- Federal Chemicals Management Plan (CMP)
 - Addressing priority substances in the Great Lakes Basin
- Canada-Ontario Agreement
 - Annex 2 goals

Link to the GLBTS

- Committed to the binational process through Canada-Ontario Agreement
- A mechanisms for delivery of provincial Great Lakes objectives
- Substances and sectors identified under GLBTS are relevant to provincial regulatory and monitoring programs



Link to Canada's Chemicals Management Plan

- Environment Canada carrying out an analysis of Ontario sectors associated with CMP high and medium priority substances
- High and medium priority substances in Ontario associated with 28 sectors
- Provide opportunities for engagement of industry / potential sector approach under COA

Link to the Canada-Ontario Agreement

- Annex 2 - Goal to Reduce Harmful Pollutants
 - Result 2.3 – Develop and initiate a program for the Sound Management of Chemicals
 - Joint federal/provincial commitments:
 - Identify priority substances and sectors
 - Promote/support best management practices to reduce/eliminate production, use or release
 - Engage industry
 - Carry out education and outreach to the Great Lakes Community
 - Enhance release profiles

Links:

Canada-Ontario Agreement

- Annex 2: Goal to enhance knowledge regarding sources, fate and impacts
 - Scientific knowledge supports action on substances and sectors of concern
 - Result 3.1: Research on sources, fate and impacts:
 - Environmental monitoring
 - Laboratory analyses
 - Modelling of emissions and fate
 - Result 3.2: Enhancing linkage of environment to human health

Next Steps

- Continued collaboration with the provincial health agencies as well as federal environmental and health agencies
- Working on identification of CMP priorities for potential application to COA programs
- Link COA priorities to opportunities under the provincial Toxics Strategy