

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy Stakeholder Forum

June 4, 2008

Canadian Centre for Inland Waters
Burlington, Ontario

THE GREAT LAKES BINATIONAL TOXICS STRATEGY

PCBs

Work Group Co-Chairs:

Ken De, Environment Canada

Tony Martig, U.S. EPA

June 4, 2008

Update on PCB Workgroup meeting, June 3/08

- 18 attendees participated including 3 on teleconference (showed renewed interest)
- Update on Canada's Proposed New PCB Regs by EC HQ (Bob Larocque)
- Recent Update by CCIW Scientists (Alice Dove & Brad Hill) on PCB Monitoring Indicators in Great Lakes
- Discussion on continuing roles of GLBTS PCB Workgroups on voluntary reduction initiatives
- Discussion on future activities of GLBTS, PCB Group
- Appendix- E on Management Assessment Report- Future Activities

PCB Challenge Goals

Canada

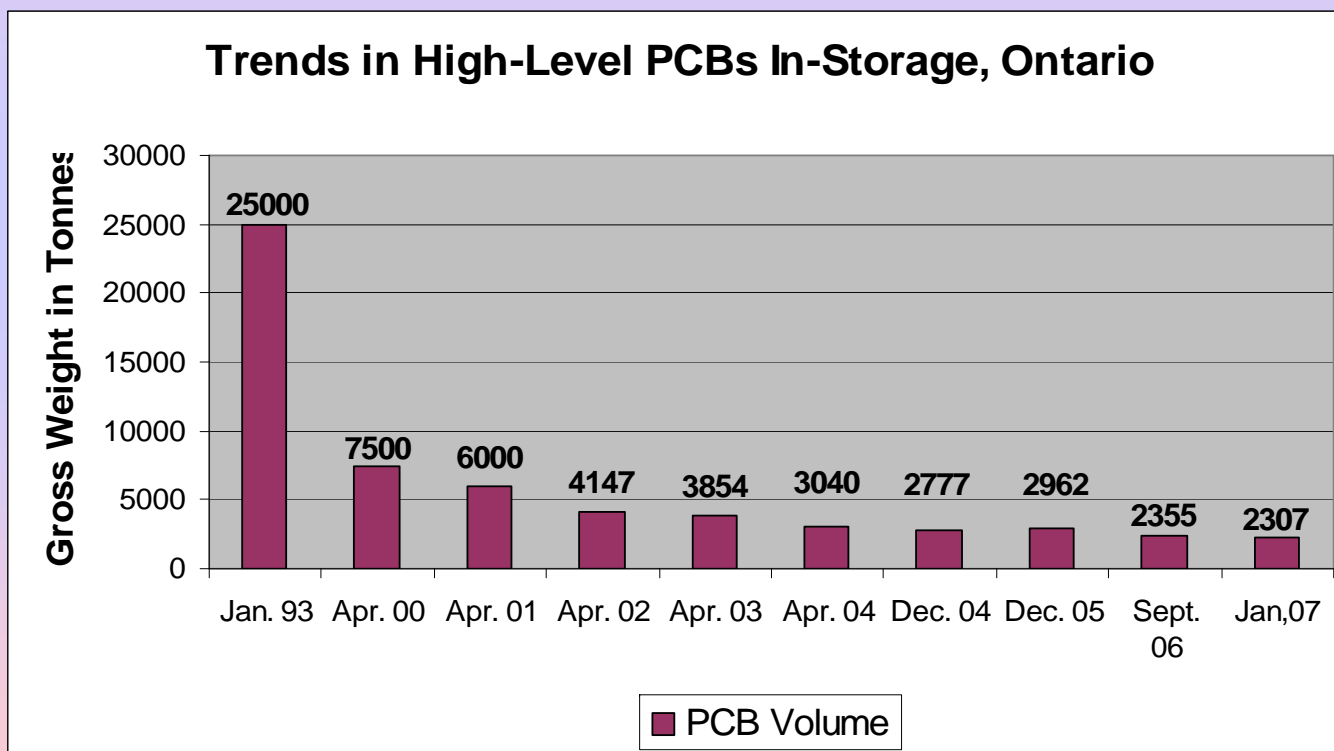
- Seek a 90% reduction of high-level PCBs (>10,000 ppm) by 2000
- Accelerate destruction of stored high-level PCB wastes

United States

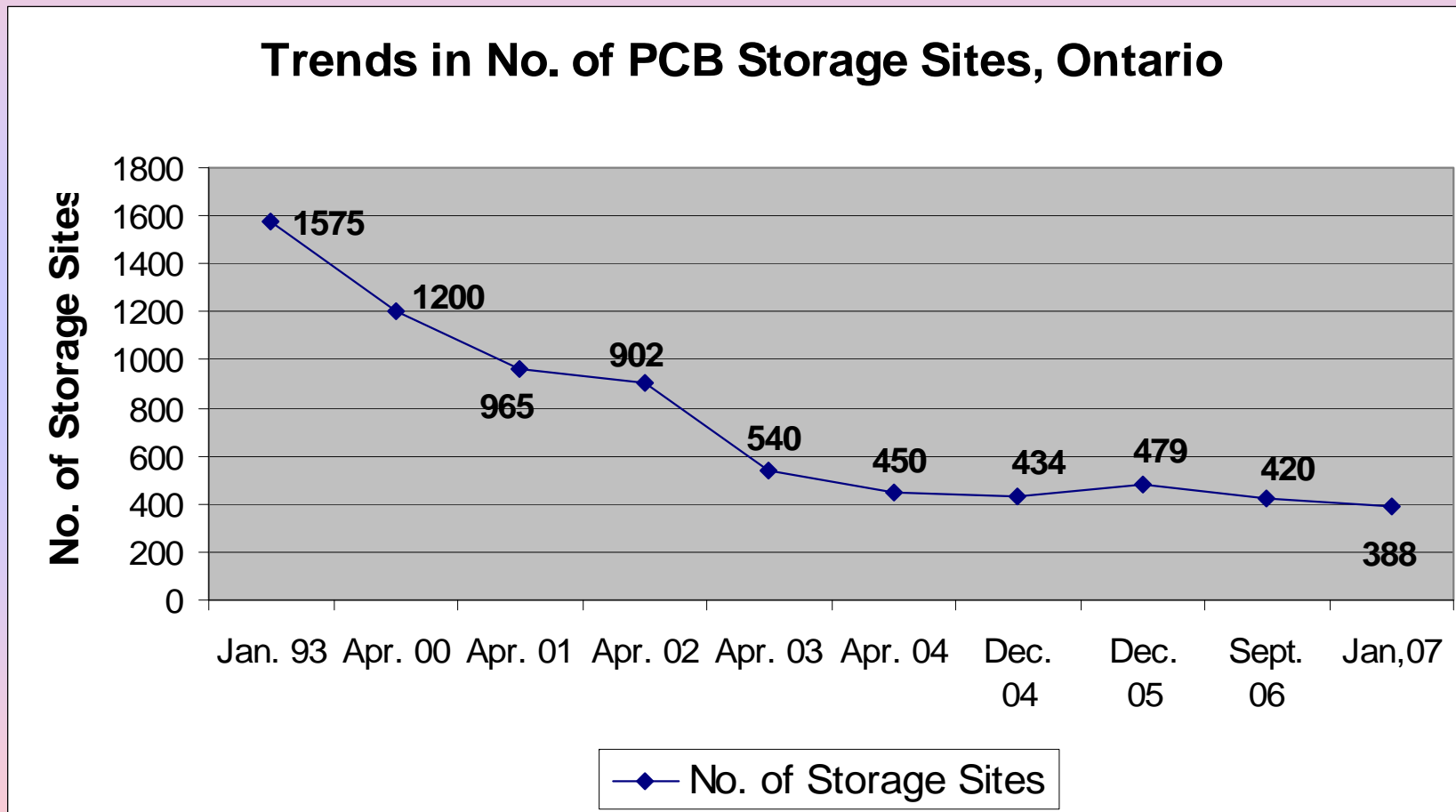
- Seek a 90% national reduction of high-level PCBs (>500 ppm) by 2006
- Ensure proper management and disposal of PCBs removed from use

Progress Toward the Challenge Goals: Canada (Continued)

Trends in High Level PCBs in Storage in Ontario in Gross Tonnes

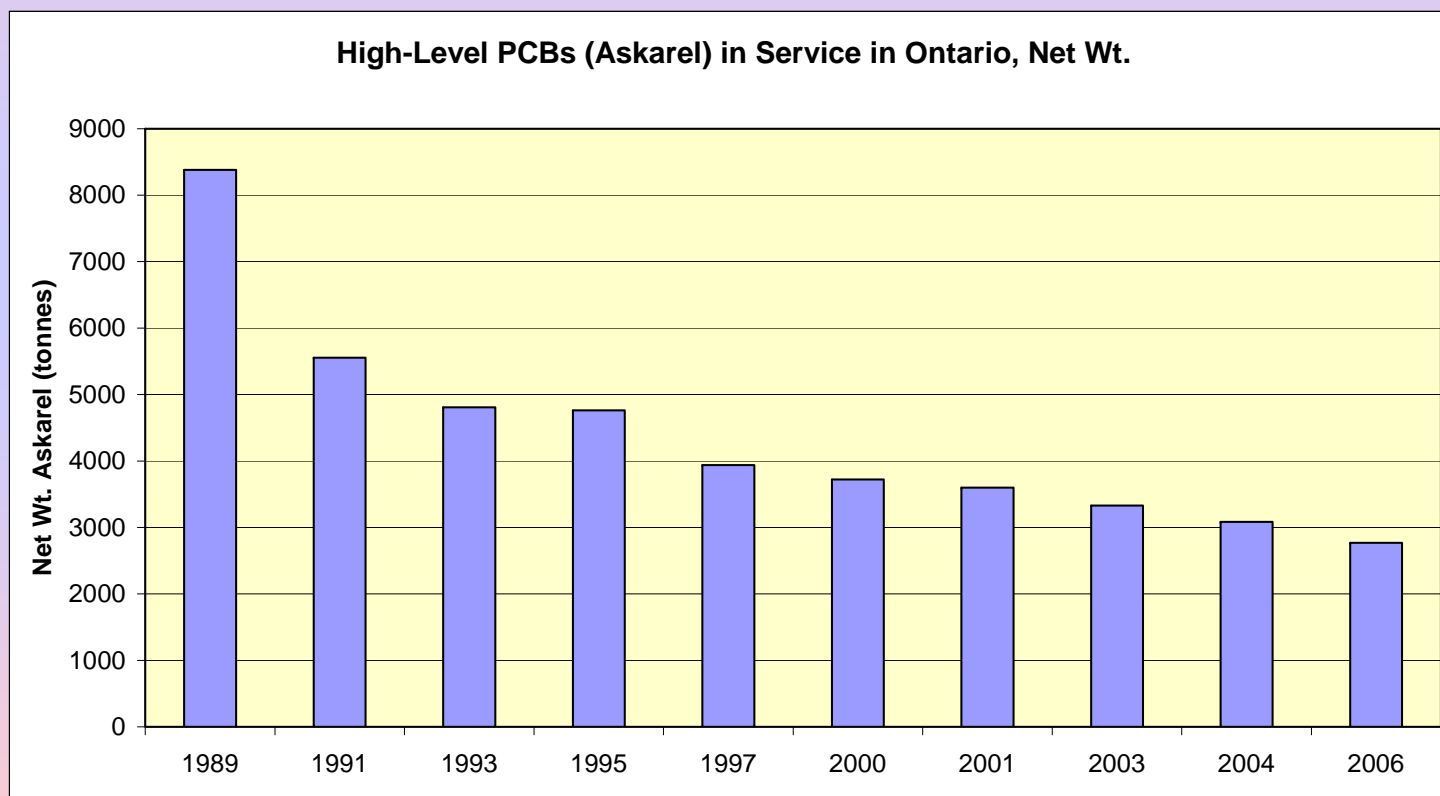


Trends in Number of PCB Storage Sites in Ontario



High Level PCB In Service in Ontario

In Net Wt Tonnes



Summary Progress Toward the Challenge

Goals: Canada

- In Ontario, Canada we met the challenge goal of destroying 90% or above of high level PCBs. As of January, 2007, 90.2% of high-level (with more than 10,000ppm) PCBs in storage have been destroyed since 1993 (about 2,307 tons remaining)
- For PCBs in service, target still remains to be met . About 70% High level PCBs in Service destroyed. (About 2771 tonnes remains in use/service)
For PCBs in service, it is likely that the 90% reduction target can be met by 2014(with the assistance of New PCB Regs)
- Less than 400 PCB sites are remaining (including federal and non-federal), down from about 1,575 in 1993
 - ◆ Additional 198 sites are PCB free (both in storage and in service)
- PCB Awards- Two additional companies – City of Toronto, Real Estate Div. and Dofasco, an integrated steel company in Hamilton received PCB recognition plaques in the fall meeting at Windsor for achieving the BTS goal voluntarily. A total of 8 companies recognized

New Focus on PCBs in Canada

- Proposed New PCB Regs in Canada stipulates mandatory target dates for destruction and Phase-out, mandatory labeling and reporting
- New Regs is expected to be published in Canada Gazette II in 2008
- Preparations for Compliance Promotions Plan & activities ongoing
- Proposed (possible) new electronic web-based inventory updating system

Progress Toward the Challenge Goals: U.S.

- ◆ Insufficient data to verify progress
- ◆ As of 8/06 about 14,700 PCB transformers were registered with U.S. EPA
- ◆ From disposal data thru 2005, an estimated 73,000 PCB transformers and 1,294,000 large PCB capacitors remained in use in the U.S.
 - Estimate obtained by subtracting the annual disposal data from the 1994 estimated baseline
- ◆ EPA is considering better update to current baseline

U.S. Activities

- **U.S. Stakeholder PCB Phase-out Efforts**
 - ◆ From 2007 report, most USWAG companies have procedures in place to ensure >50 ppm PCB equipment identified during repair/servicing is disposed and/or retrofilled
 - ◆ USWAG companies in the GL basin also have efforts to identify/remove PCB-containing equipment
 - ◆ Mining Outreach Program – US EPA, Region 8 (Colorado):
 - ~1100 letters mailed
 - replies: 23 mines = No PCBs / 1 mine = PCBs
 - ~1075 mines did not reply
 - ◆ PCB software/spreadsheet tool on costs of phasing out PCB transformers: evaluation by EPA-HQ cost analysis experts

U.S. Activities

- Investigations of:
 - ◆ PCBs in natural gas pipelines
 - ◆ PCBs in caulk
 - ◆ PCBs in indoor air (possible result of investigation related to PCBs in natural gas and caulk, above)
 - ◆ PCB contamination at abandoned buildings
 - ◆ Possible other sources – from last PCB workgroup meeting and management assessment (ex. small capacitors, light ballasts, used oil)

Summary of Challenge Goal Status Canada

- Canada met the challenge goal for high-level PCBs in storage
- Canada working to meet its challenge goal for in-service PCBs

Path Forward

- Continue to seek PCB reduction commitments through PCB reduction commitment letters and other PCB phase-out efforts
- Continue to gather and update PCB equipment inventories in the U.S. and Canada
- Continue outreach/compliance promotion efforts
- PCB Management Assessment recommendations implementation
 - ◆ Continue investigations of other sources
 - ◆ Follow-up on other identified outstanding information needs

WEB Sites on PCBs

- **NEW PCB Regs in Canada:**
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARRegistry/regulations/DetailReg.cfm?intReg=105->
- **GLBTS Website:** www.epa.gov/glnpo/bns/index.html