

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Session I

Wednesday Afternoon

Barriers to Moving Forward

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Notes: Don Betowski

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Barriers to Methods

- No standards available to use for chemical analysis
- Need to identify the problems- encouraged to use a collaborative approach
- Biological methods are not “there” yet for regulation
 - Have some exposure methods, but what do they mean?
 - How do the exposure methods relate to effects, including results from “conventional” acute, chronic
- Chemical methods are available, but are they easily transferable?

Research-Related Barriers

- Need to identify the problems we want to address
- Need to improve the link between lab effects and field work and see relationship to population effects in aquatic species
- Research needed to look at biological impacts of low levels over time
- Need to relate to real biological effects

Research-Related Barriers

- Need to properly focus research questions.
- Need for basic biology, related to NEW tools
- Need for Federal leadership role in determining if/what the problem is
- Lack of specificity in organism-level effects
- Recognized that it is a problem to have so many contaminants to consider with no sense of how they rank relative to each other—in terms of the risk they propose.
 - Suggest rank compounds, perhaps using the informatics framework by Mitchell Kostich, and then selecting the compounds for further research.

Other Barriers

- Biggest barrier: Regulation
 - Proposed we develop a cooperative approach, working together on using tools
 - Experience is that once regulation comes in, barriers go up and cooperation is lost

Barrier: Funding

- Would like to see cooperation between the federal government, academia, and research institutions to help with compounds, analyses and experimental design
- Need to work together, as demonstrated by research presented by Jeffrey Armstrong yesterday.

Other Barriers, Observations

- Pseudo-urgency to do something about something before we even know if it really presents a problem or not.
 - Concern it will force use of methods before they're ready and may lead to action against compounds that don't really present a problem
- Not seeing old paradigm working here. Need for a new paradigm.
- Suggested that likely Feds won't do anything any time soon. But, environmental groups could push state legislators....

Barriers to Methods

- Are methods even there?
- Methods NOT there for use in regulation
- Remember need to have methods that can be widely used by commercial labs at a reasonable cost.
- Do have methods available and detection limits are low enough. The question that needs to be resolved: Which target analytes should we look for?