

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Steven E. Chester, Director

FROM: Gary Butterfield, Chairperson, Toxics Steering Group, Air Quality Division

DATE: June 9, 2006

SUBJECT: Toxic Steering Group (TSG) Meeting Minutes

Attached for your review is a copy of the April 25, 2006, TSG meeting minutes.

If you have any questions regarding the minutes, please contact me.

Attachment

cc/att: Mitch Irwin, Director, MMDA
Keith Creagh, Deputy Director, MMDA
Janet Olszewski, Director, MDCH
Jean Chabut, Chief Administrative Officer, Public Health Administration, MDCH
Jim Sygo, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Stanley F. Pruss, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Joann Merrick, Senior Executive Assistant to the Director, MDEQ
Richard Powers, WB, MDEQ
George W. Bruchmann, WHMD, MDEQ
Amy Butler, ESSD, MDEQ
Harold R. Fitch, GLMD, MDEQ
Andrew W. Hogarth, RRD, MDEQ
G. Vinson Hellwig, AQD, MDEQ
TSG Committee Members

**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Toxics Steering Group meeting minutes
April 25, 2006**

Members:

Shannon Briggs, MDEQ/WB	Anne Kim, MDEQ/AQD
Christina Rose Bush, DCH	Deborah MacKenzie-Taylor, MDEQ/WHMD
Dennis Bush, MDEQ/WB	Amy Merricle, MDEQ/RRD
Gary Butterfield, MDEQ/AQD	Amy Perbeck, MDEQ/WB
Mike Depa, MDEQ/AQD	Margaret Sadoff, MDEQ/AQD (not present)
Linda Dykema, DCH	Robert Sills, MDEQ/AQD
Christine Flaga, MDEQ/RRD (not present)	Catherine Simon, MDEQ/AQD
Kay Fritz, MDEQ/WHMD	Divina Stemm, MDEQ/RRD
Kory Groetsch, DCH (not present)	Steve Weldert, DCH
Brian Hughes, MDA/PPPM	Eric Wildfang, MDEQ/RRD
Mary Lee Hultin, MDEQ/AQD	

Also in Attendance:

Jim Sygo, MDEQ	Emily Weingartz, MDEQ/WB
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1. Introduction of new DCH toxicologist Steve Weldert.
2. The TSG Earth Day activities under the name of 'Risky Business' was headed up by Divina Stemm, who had help from many other TSG members. There were many positive comments about the Earth Day 'Risky Business' activities.

Divina Stemm also attended the annual SOT conference in March. She has brought back handouts on presentations from the conference, and can make them available to TSG members. A CD copy of "The Toxicologist," containing the abstracts of all scientific presentations at the conference, is also available.

3. There is a public comment period is open until June 15 for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed guidance to enhance the quality and objectivity of risk assessments produced by the Federal Government. Deb Mackenzie-Taylor has received some TSG member comments, and hopes to be able to compile a draft of those comments by May 5th. If any additional comments are sent to Deb by May 3rd, those new comments could be included. These draft comments will be sent through department management for review, in an attempt to obtain agreement from MDEQ, as well as the Departments of Community Health (MDCH) and Agriculture (MDA) to be able to send out a 'Michigan' comments document to OMB.
4. MDEQ Deputy Director Jim Sygo again talked briefly about a possible future Michigan Environmental Science Board (MESB) committee project to look at pharmaceutical drugs being found in the environment. If that project is formally requested by the Governor for the MESB to commence work there would be an opening for a project manager for this committee. Mr. Sygo asked if one of the TSG members might want to volunteer to be that project manager on a temporary basis.

He also stated before leaving the meeting that future annual reports of children's health issues are still considered to be necessary. However, some formatting changes to improve the future

report readability, i.e. to eliminate discussion of some of the unaccomplished activities, would probably be appropriate.

5. Kay Fritz led a discussion of some problems occurring in the development of generally applicable particulate soil inhalation criteria (PSIC) for manganese for a couple of steel mill sites in the Detroit area. The potential help of other DEQ Divisions to facilitate resolution of this issue comes to light. The AQD does have some air monitoring data from locations near these steel mill sites available. The need for some air dispersion modeling is also probably required in order to determine how large a location should be considered to be impacted by the manganese. A TSG workgroup will meet to identify issues of concern and outline specific items that may be needed to be accomplished in order to develop this PSIC.

Kay also talked about the temporary access to CambridgeSoft Office 2006. A two-month trial period is close to half over at this time. It currently looks like the systems 3-D chemical structure is a very nice feature to see molecular structures. However, the value of this feature was not felt to be worth the cost, of approximately \$14,000. Such money if available could be better spent on other more important needs.

6. Mary Lee Hultin spoke about the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) review of proposed activity request form, and their request for steering committee members. It appeared that TSG members had received Mary Lee's earlier e-mails and were aware of this Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) program.

Mary Lee also briefly talked about possible comments the TSG could make on EPA's proposed lead – renovation, repair and painting rules for construction in older homes. The Children's Health sub-committee has looked at this issue in some detail. Mary Lee will forward draft comments on this issue to the TSG members in the near future for their review of the full set of comments.

Another issue, implementation of the April 2005 EPA - Supplemental Guidance for Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens has raised several problems. One problem is how to determine if a carcinogen is mutagenic, a necessity for using this guidance. There does not appear to be any well established guidance by EPA or any one else for which exact mutagenic assays need to be positive in order to be able to call a chemical positively mutagenic. There is a new draft document which came out on March 15th from EPA concerning age specific exposure considerations entitled "Framework for Assessing Health Risks of Environmental Exposures to Children." The EPA is holding a workshop in June that hopefully will answer some of these implementation issues. Hopefully, at least one of the staff members can get approval and funding to attend this workshop.

7. "TSG goals and objectives for 2006" were discussed. The historical basis for the TSG was discussed, as well as the DEQ Policy and Procedure memo that formalized establishment of the TSG. One of the primary purposes of the TSG has been to promote consistency in risk assessments and toxicological evaluations across DEQ Divisions and between Departments. It was agreed that TSG members should identify priorities for the next year. The Chairperson will send out a reminder on this issue about a month before the next meeting. The compiled list of suggested priorities will be discussed at the next meeting. During the discussion, the need for additional educational/training on new and developing issues was pointed out. This included possible BMD training, PBPK training, and any other training.

8. Subcommittee Updates

PBDEs – The TSG white paper for this issue has received considerable work over the past couple of months and is nearing completion. It is currently being scheduled to be completed by late May.

Dioxin - Many activities related to Dow's Midland work plan proposals. Some possible exposure pathways have been eliminated from Dow's proposal, which is under review. There are many requests from citizens to have soil samples taken in order to determine levels of contamination.

The NAS may come out with their report on dioxin in the near future.

The U of M dioxin in the Midland area exposure study is expected to be coming out late this summer, probably in August.

Lead – There have been no recent meetings for this subcommittee. **Original wording:** There has been some statistical evaluation of 75 ppm fine fraction as being a safe clean up value. **Corrected wording:** It was pointed out that the meeting minutes from the April 25th meeting had incorrectly stated that the RRD lead soil cleanup value is 75 ppm. The lead soil direct contact cleanup value remains **400 ppm**. As a clarification, 75 ppm represents a total lead concentration at and below which separate lead analysis in the fine and coarse fractions of soil samples are not required. For the evaluation of the direct contact pathway where lead is a contaminant of concern, analysis of lead in the fine fraction is required because the fine fraction (defined as less than 250 microns in size) is most relevant for the direct contact pathway. In addition, lead concentrations in the fine fraction can be higher than the concentration in the total soil sample.

Bob Sills reported that the Michigan Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission completed and submitted to the legislature its recommendations in a March 2006 annual report. The report (21 pp.) is available at: www.michigan.gov/leadsafe.

Children's Health – See above issues relating to a) lead renovation, repair and painting comments, b) implementation of Supplemental Guidance for Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens.

Methamphetamine Labs – MDCH has hired a new staff member to cover this issue. There has been some action in the legislature redirecting primary authority for this issue from the MDEQ to MDCH. The current clean-up guidance has been written to be process driven rather than a health based cleanup criteria. There is at this time no apparent need for this subcommittee to continue.

Uncertainty Factors – No activity recently, new studies continue to be published. There still is hope to get a report out in the near future.

CAFO - The white paper/report from this group has been finished and submitted. The paper listed chemicals of concern from CAFO's, possible health effects of those chemicals, and potential sensitive groups.

These subcommittees will be discontinued from the list of 'active' subcommittees, including:

- Lead
- Methamphetamine Labs

- CAFO

The next TSG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2006

GB:lh