Members in attendance:

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
- John Buchweitz

Department of Community Health (DCH)
- Jennifer Gray
- Lisa Quiggle

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Dennis Bush
- Mike Depa
- Chris Flaga
- Kay Fritz
- Doreen Lehner
- Deb MacKenzie-Taylor
- Divinia Ries
- Amy Salisbury
- Bob Sills
- Eric Wildfang

Also in attendance:

DEQ
- Jim Sygo
- Joy Taylor-Morgan
- Emily Weingartz

General announcements
Divinia announced that the USEPA Exposure Factors Handbook is scheduled to be finalized in September 2011.

Chris Flaga discussed the proposed updates currently underway to the Remediation Division’s Part 201 cleanup criteria rules (Part 7 of Part 201). Highlights include:
- The ambient air and soil direct contact exposure pathways have been combined into a single pathway that addresses soil exposure.
- Inhalation exposure had been incorporated into the drinking water pathway to establish a new “tapwater” exposure pathway.
- The vapor intrusion pathway has been significantly revised.
- It appears that cumulative risk cannot be addressed under the current Part 201 statutory framework.
- Many other generic criteria rules have been updated.
Deb requested volunteers to review a negotiated soil criterion for dioxin as pertaining to ongoing investigation and cleanup efforts in Midland. Bob, Chris Flaga (assumed volunteer) and Mike agreed to review this document which is expected to be distributed to the reviewers in “a week or two”.

Front Office Update (Jim Sygo)

- Division heads have been working on a contingency plan in the event that state employee concessions proposed in the 2012 budget are not resolved by October 1, 2011. The current plan includes the potential for up to 9 departmental FTE layoffs. Many of the currently unfilled positions were included in the contingency plan, so hiring is expected to be limited until the matter is resolved.
- The 3% salary deduction for the health care coverage under the defined benefits plan has still not been resolved.
- The DEQ executive office had the Office of Human Resources evaluate the department’s management to direct report ratios. The data need to be reanalyzed as they don’t accurately reflect the current departmental organization charts.
- Maggie Cox and Anne Couture have joined the DEQ Senior Management Team and will be working with Randy Gross on a number of projects.
- USEPA has transitioned some areas of the Enbridge environmental release site to the department.

U:\ drive folder access

Eric contacted DTMB to identify ownership and permissions of the TSG utilized folders currently located on the shared U:\ drive. The contents of these folders include the EPB-CCD (chemical criteria) database and the DEQ library database. DTMB indicated that ownership and permissions have to be assigned to the entire contents of the folder, such that nested folders cannot have different permissions than those of the parent folder. Given that non-TSG users currently have and need to maintain access to the contents of these two applications, a TSG-only folder would be inappropriate. It’s recommended that the folders remain as they are and that those TSG members wishing to have access to them simply be added to the respective permissions list. Eric will follow up with Chris Bush on this for getting DCH staff access to these databases.

EPB-CCD database update

Doreen, following discussions with representatives from the other divisions, has initiated the process with DTMB to evaluate the options for updating the chemical criteria database. At issue is the fact that DTMB does not support MS Access databases, potential security risks associated with web access to EPB-CCD data, and general maintenance of the database. DTMB-required forms have been submitted and a response is pending. Once a DTMB cost estimate is obtained, this will be submitted to department management for review and approval. Doreen has requested that database users provide input on database improvements as well as modernization of the database name.

PFC workgroup update

Joy reported that the PFC workgroup’s draft document was distributed to TSG members for comment on Wednesday, August 10, 2011. Comments have been received and are being reviewed. The document is currently in secretarial review and is expected to be completed this week. Dennis indicated that it would be appropriate that Amy Babcock perform a final
review prior to it being submitted to Jim Sygo as a finalized document. It is expected that the final version of the document will go out late next week.

**Children’s Environmental Health Subcommittee (CEHS) update**

Deb reported that the CEHS still needs to finalize the age-dependent adjustment factor (ADAF) recommendations document. Two additional topics are awaiting evaluation by the CEHS: 1) Bob requested a CEHS review of the article “Reducing The Staggering Costs Of Environmental Disease In Children, Estimated At $76.6 Billion In 2008” by Leonardo Trasande and Yinghua Liu and 2) the USEPA’s Voluntary Children’s Chemical Evaluation Program.

**USEPA oral reference dose ¾ body weight scaling factor recommendation**

Those TSG members that are involved in the development of oral reference doses weighed in on the subject of USEPA’s February 2011 final recommendation to use species scaling as the default method in derivation of the oral reference dose.

Bob indicated that AQD does not have any administrative rule conflict that would prevent the air toxics unit from applying this methodology. Bob, Mike and Doreen supported that AQD to adopt this methodology where appropriate.

Dennis indicated that while supportive of the USEPA recommendations, he believes that it may conflict with the Part 4 Water Quality Standards rules which indicate that uncertainty factors “shall be used”. He may pursue Water Resources Division management opinion on the matter.

Kay and Deb supported the application of the bodyweight scaling factor where appropriate.

Amy, Divinia and Eric supported adoption of the USEPA methodology. There are currently no Part 201 rules that would prevent implementation of the species scaling factor default methodology where appropriate.

TSG consensus was that implementation of the USEPA’s body weight ¾ species scaling recommendation is an appropriate default methodology in the absence of physiologically-based toxicokinetic modeling data or chemical-specific data when there is no conflict with any DEQ administrative rules governing oral reference dose development.

**Adjourn**

*The next TSG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2001 from 9-11 a.m. in the Katherine Cushman conference room.*