

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Steven E. Chester, Director

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

SUBJECT: Toxic Steering Group (TSG) Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 28, 2006



Attached for your review is a copy of the October 24, 2006, TSG meeting minutes.

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

GB:lh

Attachment

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

**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Toxics Steering Group meeting minutes  
October 24, 2006**

**Members:**

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

**Also in Attendance:**

Jim Sygo, DEQ	Carmen Anderson, DEQ/RRD
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1. A short discussion on the newly available TSG team room was presented by Maggie Sadoff. The team rooms can be used to exchange documents, as well as a location for bulletin board/e-mail discussions. Team rooms can be found on the DEQ intranet, and are available to non-DEQ members by utilizing the connections that were sent by Maggie to the non-DEQ members via GroupWise.
2. There was a lengthy discussion among TSG members with input from Jim Sygo on the annual report, the TSG history and policy. The majority of members felt that the format of the annual report should be changed from past years. In recent years this annual report tried to answer questions and issues raised in the 2000 MESB report, which also requested an annual report outlining TSG activities on children's issues be made. The discussion leads to a conclusion that future reports should focus on all current TSG activities. This report could be useful way to inform DEQ administrators of toxicity issues that TSG members think are important. During the discussion and review of the existing TSG policy, it became apparent that there are several items in the policy that should be updated. One issue that needs to be changed in the Policy is removal of the DEQ Special Projects Coordinator, a position that has remained unfilled for more than one year, and probably will not be filled in the near future.
3. Jim Sygo briefly went over some e-mails that he has obtained from EPA Region 5 contacts on issues that may be of interest to TSG members, including: EPA's review of DEET; the TEACH web site; and issues on nanotechnology that are developing, included a conference call on this topic being conducted by Wisconsin later this week. He also reminded the PBDE subcommittee members that a new version of their white paper on deca-PBDE needs to be completed by the end of December for distribution to outside stakeholders/reviewers.

#### 4. Subcommittee Updates

- a) PBDE – Jim Sygo directed that the updated PBDE report (an update to the January 2004 report) must be completed by the end of the year. At that time, Jim will distribute it to the PBDE stakeholder's group. The subcommittee members briefly described the many uncertainties that remain with deca-PBDE. It is likely that recommendations will include the use of a safer alternative if one can be identified.
  - b) Children's Health – There have been several meetings and numerous conference calls on issues concerning children's health. It was arranged to have EPA's Annie Jarabek provide training to a majority of TSG members at the end of August on inhalation dosimetry. Hopefully, handouts from that training will be on the DEQ ftp web site soon. Mary Lee Hultin hopes to have a summary of the June conference on children's inhalation dosimetry that she attended available in the near future.
  - c) UF – This subcommittee has not met recently. The majority of key items that need further work have been identified, like papers that need to be reviewed. However, the subcommittee needs to find sufficient time to work those issues into a final report.
  - d) Dioxin – This subcommittee has not met. There are several meetings scheduled with Dow Chemical to discuss Midland area dioxin issues during the next month.
5. Potential training on benchmark dose software (BMDS) by Dr. Jay Zhao of TERA is still being worked on by Amy Perbeck. Future meetings with Amy and the WB financial officers for arranging the coordination of cross divisional charges to pay for this training will need to be worked out.
  6. The new TSG Chairperson for the next year will be Amy Merricle.

GB:lh