

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Steven E. Chester, Director
FROM: Gary Butterfield, Chairperson, Toxics Steering Group, Air Quality Division
MDATE: February 10, 2006
SUBJECT: Toxic Steering Group (TSG) Meeting Minutes

Attached for your review is a copy of the January 24, 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
January 24, 2006**

Members:

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

Also in Attendance:

Jim Sygo, MDEQ	Emily Weingartz, MDEQ/WB
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1. Introduction of MDEQ-RRD newest toxicologist Eric Wildfang, and Divina Stemm. Eric joined RRD last week Jan 17, while Divina joined their group last October.
2. Divina Stemm has been approved by MDEQ management to attend the annual SOT conference this March. She has offered to bring back handouts on presentations from the conference to TSG members that request her to look for information on specific conference topics.
3. Announced in the Jan 17, 06 Federal Register on page 2600, as part of an ongoing effort to improve the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated by the Federal Government to the public, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in consultation with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), has referred to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), for their expert review, new guidance to enhance the quality and objectivity of risk assessments produced by the Federal Government. There is a public comment period open until June 15. Proposed TSG member comments should be sent to Deb Mackenzie-Taylor by March 15. Linda Dykema and Deb will work to draft possible Michigan comments. Those draft comments will need to go through Department management review and agreement from MDEQ, as well as the departments of Community Health (MDCH) and Agriculture (MDA) to be able to send out a 'Michigan' document to OMB.
4. Last year the Earth Day presentations apparently went over well enough that the organizers want the TSG to expand presentations to fill the ConCon Room for this year's Earth Day on Thursday, April 20. That size room will likely require four to six stations. Following some discussion, the TSG members thought that they can and still want to do this for this year. Divina Stemm volunteered to be the lead person. A group of other volunteers with representatives from MDEQ, MDA, and MDCH will meet to go over ideas for possible presentations/displays.

5. At the Sept 05 meeting of the TSG, the Children's Health subcommittee asked for feedback on folks thoughts about the TSG adopting use of the April 2005 EPA - Supplemental Guidance for Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens. The TSG members were in general agreement that, in the past, the vast majority of EPA guidance is followed to develop environmental screening levels, standards, risk estimates, clean-up values, etc. The group agreed that the April 2005 EPA Supplemental Guidance for Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens should also be used when appropriate by the TSG toxicologist in order to take into account children's differential risk.
6. MDEQ Deputy Director Jim Sygo talked briefly about a possible future Michigan Environmental Science Board (MESB) committee to look at pharmaceutical drugs being found in the environment. If that committee is formed there would be an opening for a project manager for this committee if someone wants to volunteer. He mentioned having recently signed off on the TSG 5th Annual Report of children's health issues. When asked if future annual reports are still considered to be necessary, he responded Yes. However, some formatting changes to improve the future report to eliminate the unaccomplished activities would probably be appropriate.

7. Subcommittee Updates

PBDEs – Held a meeting on Jan12 to strategize and discuss scheduling. No other recent activity due to members other commitments. The next meeting will be held in mid-February following the completion of other projects in which subcommittee members are involved. This report is scheduled to be completed by late spring.

Dioxin - Many activities related to Dow's Midland proposals. They continue to propose using PRA for many various issues. The PRA subcommittee members are encouraged to help evaluate Dow's proposed PRA uses, watershed exposure issues, and human health exposure/risk assessment are being readied for distribution.

Lead – EPA has proposed rules for the lead - renovation, repair, and painting program. It doesn't look like comments on RRP need to come from the TSG at this time. It is possible that future lead clean-up values need to be developed.

Children's Health – The annual report was recently completed – see above. Also see the above discussion on the Supplemental Guidance for Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens.

Methamphetamine Labs – Due to limited staffing resources, there has not been much activity by this subcommittee. However, MDCH is hiring a new staff member (starting 1/30/06) who will invest half of his time on this issue. There has been some action in the legislature with new laws being drafted. Some of these drafts redirect primary authority from the MDEQ to MDCH. Clean-up guidance eventually needs to be written – likely to be process driven guidance rather than cleanup criteria. MDCH will work with local health departments and may not need input from MDEQ toxicologists.

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 - This group has met and is looking at a draft list of chemicals of concern. Hope to get a report out on those chemicals by the end of February.

Discussion on several subcommittees that have been relatively inactive in the recent past, as to whether they should be discontinued from a list of 'active' subcommittees. If there is a need for these subcommittees in the future, they will be reformed. Those subcommittees included:

- Probability Risk Assessment (PRA)
 - Cancer risk
 - Trichloroethylene (TCE)
 - Chemical mixtures
8. The last item on the agenda, "TSG goals and objectives for 2006," which included "Educational/training issues – possible BMD training, other training," received some discussion. However, it appeared that additional review and thought by members would be necessary before a serious detailed deliberation. Members were asked to give this further consideration, and this issue would be continued at the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2006