

**TOXICS STEERING GROUP (TSG) MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2015  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members in Attendance:**

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

Jennifer Gray	Kory Groetsch	Linda Dykema
Lisa Quiggle		

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):

Christine Flaga	Divinia Ries	Eric Wildfang
Deb MacKenzie-Taylor	Kristen Kellock	Keisha Williams
Mike Depa	Bob Sills	Dennis Bush
Emily Weingartz	Joy Taylor-Morgan	

**Others Present:**

Jim Sygo	Bob Wagner	Sue Leeming
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**Highlights:**

1. Risk assessment conducted by DHHS toxicologists using the EPA biologically based model for lead in children.

A TSG evaluation was requested from DHHS toxicologists on a risk assessment they conducted for elementary school and day care children exposed to lead-contaminated drinking water in the City of Flint. The goal is to use the model to identify a concentration of lead in the drinking water that does not require any corrective action. A subcommittee of the TSG was formed to conduct the review. Members are: Jennifer Gray (DHHS), Bob Sills (DEQ-AQD), Deb MacKenzie-Taylor (DEQ-OWMRP), Eric Wildfang (DEQ-RRD), and Christine Flaga (DEQ-RRD). The group will provide comment back to DHHS toxicologists by close of business October 16, 2015. A meeting was scheduled for October 13, 2015.

2. Emily's retirement and resulting issues.

Options for filling the void created with Emily's impending retirement in December were discussed. Emily's current responsibilities include: management of the DEQ library; scientific literature searches for DEQ toxicologists; obtaining articles and documents with an understanding of copyright law. The options discussed follow:

- a) A department-wide information specialist and librarian position. This position could potentially be placed in the Executive Section and would serve the department or it could be housed in one of the divisions and funded by AQD, WRD, and RRD via an MOU as it was in the past. Responsibilities would include searching the scientific literature for data used to generate the
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Part 201 Cleanup Criteria, Rule 57 values, Air Toxics Screening Levels, as well as other information or documents required by staff toxicologists and other technical staff. Management of the DEQ library would be included in the responsibilities of this position. The person in this position could also assist in providing background documentation to the public regarding development of the cleanup criteria and other values generated by the DEQ. This would assist the department in becoming more transparent.

Dennis, Bob, Chris, and Deb will provide justification for support of such a position and Chris will pull the document together for management review. Comments are due to Chris by COB October 26, 2015.

- b) Utilize resources at the Library of Michigan (LOM). This option would address literature searching and document acquisition. Amy Babcock is working to set up a meeting with toxicologists and LOM staff. LOM staff does not have access to the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS). Look into the possibility of having LOM staff charge to CAS accounts for WRD, RRD, and AQD (with separate passwords) as Emily currently does or LOM staff would use other options for searching the literature.
- c) Toxicologists conduct their own searching with or without CAS. This option addresses only literature searches and would take time away from other critical toxicologist responsibilities.
  - o With CAS: Emily does not believe that it would be cost effective for toxicologists to conduct their own CAS searches. Special skills and regular use are required to conduct CAS searches as they must be done efficiently to avoid exorbitant costs.

Another option is a web-based version of CAS called SciSearch. This is geared more for users less skilled in CAS searching and no special software is needed. The estimated cost for this would be \$5,000 to \$6,000/year for "low-usage" (i.e., about six searches/month). Several chemicals or issues could be searched during one search session. A two-week free trial is available and Emily will pursue getting and evaluating it.

- o Without CAS: Emily estimates that 95% of the available information can be obtained conducting searches with Google Scholar and PubMed. Synonyms are necessary for the search because Google Scholar does not index CAS numbers and PubMed indexes them inconsistently. To ensure thoroughness, unpublished studies submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and EPA should also be searched.
- d) Contract with SRC for scientific literature searching. This option would address literature searching needs only. SRC is very familiar with the Federal risk assessment process and now Part 201 as a result of their support for the Part 201 criteria updates. Consideration of this option would require cost estimates and additional information from SRC.

### 3. Subcommittee updates.

- Perflourinated Compounds: the subcommittee continues to monitor the scientific literature and meet on occasion to discuss new data.
- 1,4-Dioxane: the subcommittee finished its report in February of 2015 and has not been active since. The report is a review of the toxicological assessment conducted and presented by Mike Dourson of Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA). This information was presented to the department in October of 2013. Additional information has been submitted by TERA but RRD will not consider this information for the current update of the 1,4-dioxane cleanup criteria because a Collaborative Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup (CSA) established decision framework must be followed for the toxicity updates of all Part 201 hazardous substances. Due to the update and rules promulgation schedule, RRD does not have the time and resources to consider TERA's more recent information to determine if it represents the best available information in comparison to the EPA IRIS toxicological assessment.
- Children's Environmental Health: comments on the Subcommittee's August Report ("Process to Address Developmental and/or Reproductive Toxicity in the Derivation of Generic Cleanup Criteria") were due on October 9. October 23 was identified as the extended deadline for comments. This report has been the Subcommittee's focus for the past several months.

The next TSG meeting has not yet been scheduled.