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Canadian Environmental Network

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MEMO

To: All ARET/Reference Group on Toxics PEI meeting participants/other interested groups

From: Craig Boljkovac, CEN

Re: Mailing

Date: December 13/93

Greetings. First off, apologies for the delay on getting these out to you all. This package contains:

- The minutes of the PEI meeting. Please take note of the "task list" on the last page.

 Please note: Dave Bennett is with the CLC, not "Ontario", as it appears in the minutes.
- 2) An updated participants' list. please let us no if there are any corrections.
- 3) A memo from Ross Hall on the SSSC list, and a copy of the list. As promised at the meeting.
- A financial statement. The ARET contract is officially over. If the pilot project goes ahead (it is apparently on hold at the moment) a new contract will be put forward. Therefore there is no coordinator money for this reference group.
- A letter to Sheila Copps regarding the CEPA 5-year Review. As for the CEPA Review Workshop which took place in late November, it was a great disappointment. We will be attempting to get funding for this initiative in the near future for ENGOs. Please let Craig know at the CEN office if you are interested in being kept up-to-date in this initiative.

Have a restful season.



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ENGO/Labour Reference Group on Toxics Meeting Minutes CEN AGA Slemon Park, PEI October 2-3, 1993

Present: Paul Muldoon (Pollution Probe), Rose Hume Hall (Pollution Probe), Steward Shouldice (Grassroots Woodstock), Tom Wynn (United Steelworkers), Duncan Macdonald (Ontario Federation of Labour), Bruce Walker (STOP), Doug Hyde (Rawson Academy), Dave Bennett (Ontario), Romain Cote (UQCN), Rick Coronado (Windsor and District Labour Council - Environment Project), Myles Kitagawa (Alberta Toxics Watch), Daniel Schulman (Environmental Coalition of PEI), Jared Story (YCS), Chris Rolfe (WCELA), Judy Parkman (ROAR), Coryn Andre (Env. Canada), Holly Martel (Env. Canada), Bob Diamond (NAPE Environment Committee), Ellen Schwartzel (Pollution Probe), Kelly Hislop (Nova Scotia Environment Network).

Chair: John Jackson

Minutes: Robin Round and Lesley Cassidy

1. Environment Canada Internal CEPA Review

Coryn Andre and Holly Martel of Conservation and Protection Branch, Environment Canada, briefed the meeting participants on a multistakeholder workshop being held on November 23 and 24 by Environment Canada on the status of its' internal review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). (Appended to these minutes is a list of the invitees).

Fourteen issue teams were formed for the internal review process. Each team was responsible for putting together an issues paper, which will form the basis for discussion at the November meeting.

The workshop proceedings will be recorded and the resulting consultation document will form the basis of Environment Canada's submission to the Parliamentary Committee review of CEPA, scheduled for the Spring of 1994. If there are issues where there is no agreement among the stakeholders, Environment Canada will present its' own position.

2. Priority Substances List II

Chris Rolfe of the West Coast Environmental Law Association reported on Environment Canada's efforts to prepare the second Priority Substances List (PSL II) under CEPA. With the PSL I process under CEPA, chemicals which are suspected of being highly toxic are individually assessed under a complex regime to see if they are damaging health or the environment in Canada. The process has long been criticized by environmental groups as too slow and costly. Over the past four years of CEPA, only eight substances have been assessed, from a list of 44 identified as needing study. PSL II is to be a continuation of the PSL process, under which chemicals additional to the 44 would be identified and assessed.

In March of this year Environment Canada put a call out to stakeholders seeking their input on preparing the second PSL. In July a number of groups responded in the negative, in a letter to Environment Canada. The groups cited what they felt were "fundamental flaws" in the PSL I process as reasons for declining to participate

in the PSL II process. The groups suggested a new process for selecting substances based on classes of substances instead of individual ones, and that substances known to be toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative be added to the CEPA's Toxic Substances List, without the requisite epidemiological and toxicological evidence that they are causing harm, as is required at present.

Environment Canada has continued the PSL II process without environmentalists involvement.

3. ARET Update

Paul Muldoon and David Bennett gave an update on the status of the ARET process. In late summer, the environmental and labour groups around the multistakeholder ARET table decided to leave the ARET process. This happened, as the accompanying literature shows, after a long round of negotiations on key issues such as definitions of elimination and reduction and the need for legislation to "backstop" voluntary initiatives resulted in what ENGOs and Labour thought were actually steps backwards from what had been initially agreed to for ARET by the participants.

A summary of the main contentious issues is as follows:

- 1) the inclusion of pesticides and metals, two major sources of ecosystem contamination, was not supported by the other stakeholders;
- 2) environment groups and labour pushed for the ARET process to capture not only the release of substances into the environment outside of the boundaries of a plant, but also the use of the substance at all stages of production, both inside and outside of the plant;
- 3) environment groups, labour and government wanted hazard assessment to be used when identifying substances to be caught by ARET. Hazard assessment is the identification of chemicals or closely related ones by their characteristics, without necessarily having direct evidence of their harm to health or the environment. Industry supported the use of risk assessment a long, costly process whereby each chemical is laboriously tested for direct harm to humans and the rest of the environment;
- 4) there was a second dialogue track between industry and government regarding the production of memoranda of understanding. These are legally unenforceable agreements between industry and government which outline goals and timelines for toxics reduction. Environment groups and labour were unaware of these negotiations until late in the process.

In summary, the gap between the objectives of environment groups and labour, and industry and government was, in the groups' opinion, too large to bridge. Therefore, on September 17, 1993, a letter was drafted announcing the official withdrawal of ENGOS and Labour from the ARET process. ARET continues on, without ENGO participation.

The ARET Substance Selection Subcommittee (SSSC)

Ross Hall gave a short report on the work of the SSSC. The Subcommittee was charged with the production of an ARET candidate substances list through the development of a scoring system for chemicals, based solely on available toxicological data and professional judgement. Questions of volume, exposure or risk benefit were not considered. Ross was pleased with the process on the Subcommittee, and the resultant list of substances that was generated. He felt that this list is as good as any around, and that it would be an effective tool for groups to use to educate and campaign on toxics. The list, and a more detailed explanation of the Subcommittee's work are appended to these minutes.

4. Legislative Task Force (LTF)

Dave Bennett reported on the LTF. The LTF grew out of ARET because of the insistence of industry and government that ARET was to be solely a voluntary initiative, without the existence of a legislative "backstop" (which ENGOs and Labour deemed essential) threatened to derail the whole process. The LTF was created this past spring as a process separate from, but parallel to ARET.

The LTF met regularly over a number of months, and will soon be releasing a report outlining its' vision(s) for legislation regarding toxics reduction. This report will identify areas of agreement between all stakeholders. Where there are cases of disagreement, all views will be put forth. The report will feed into the 5-year legislative review of CEPA as one of the Environment Canada reports to be reviewed at the CEPA workshop (see item #1).

Contained in the report will be a common vision between ENGOs and Labour on how they feel comprehensive Pollution Prevention legislation should look. Unfortunately, provincial government representatives (where much of the pressure for pollution prevention has been previously applied) did not take part in the process.

Initially the legislative task group looked good, but ENGOs paid a price because provincial government representatives were not included. Despite continuous lobbying by labour and ENGOs, a national standardized plan for pollution prevention is not possible because of the lack of provincial representation.

Consensus between all the stakeholders involved with the LTF was rare, but the ENGO and Labour participants felt that the exercise was a good one.

5. Pilot Project

Paul Muldoon reported on a proposal by Environment Canada for a Pilot Project on Pollution Prevention. The proposal was to examine the "Top 30" substances on the SSSC list, and try to achieve reduction and elimination in a small number of sectors. The first meeting to define the terms of reference was held in late September. Differences arose between what the ENGOs at the table and government wanted out of the project. The latest word, however, is that Environment Canada would like to continue discussions.

ACTION: To discuss on Sunday and discuss developing a proposal.

Sunday October 3, 1993

1) CEPA Internal Review Workshop

There was consensus that Reference Group representatives should attend with the goal of setting their agenda. It was felt that the representatives should have a clear, common voice.

Action: Dave Bennett, Paul Muldoon, and Chris Rolfe are to write a checklist/short paper on toxics to take to consultation (November 23). Craig will mail a copy to all caucus chairs and it will be put on WEB.

2) Community Strategy Session - where should we be putting our efforts?

ACTION: Ross Hume Hall will write a one-page covering summary to accompany the SSSC list of 102 substances to be eliminated.

The list could have a number of purposes:

- use list to lever CEPA review
- pressure provinces and federal with our goal of developing a national programme for pollution prevention
- as part of a public education package on health impacts of toxics
- as a tool to help with interpreting National Pollutants Release Inventory (NPRI) data.
- to help with community action perhaps in the form of a "toxics day"

Community Action Plan

A. Community Toxics Package

It was agreed that, in the long run, a larger "community toxics package " could be developed. Suggestions for components of the package included:

- -a description of health impacts of listed toxics;
- -a chemical list
- -a guide to where they are produced and used
- -a guide on how to access and use the NPRI
- -a list of action items (things people can do)

It was noted that some "sunset guide" and translation money is available.

B. Community Workshops

It was agreed that some sort of training workshop be developed for community activists.

C. Federal Action

An idea for "neighbourhood accountability agreements", perhaps with federal backing, was put forward.

ACTION: A committee was struck to further develop these ideas and actions: John Jackson, Ross Hume Hall, Myles Kitagawa, Judy Parkman, Rick Coronado, Paul Muldoon, Doug Hyde, Steward Shouldice, Kelly Hislop and Chris Rolfe.

3. Pilot Project Strategy

A broad discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of participating in and helping to develop this process. There were some concerns expressed that participation in the Pilot Project would appear to validate the just-rejected ARET process.

Some potential conditions for participation in a pilot project were suggested, including the existence of strict deadlines focused on community-based pollution prevention. Potential goals of the exercise would be its' acheivability, broad impact, ability to build on successes and empowerment of ENGOs and Labour to set the agenda.

There was consensus from the group to go ahead with the pilot project. Funding from ARET has been rolled into this project.

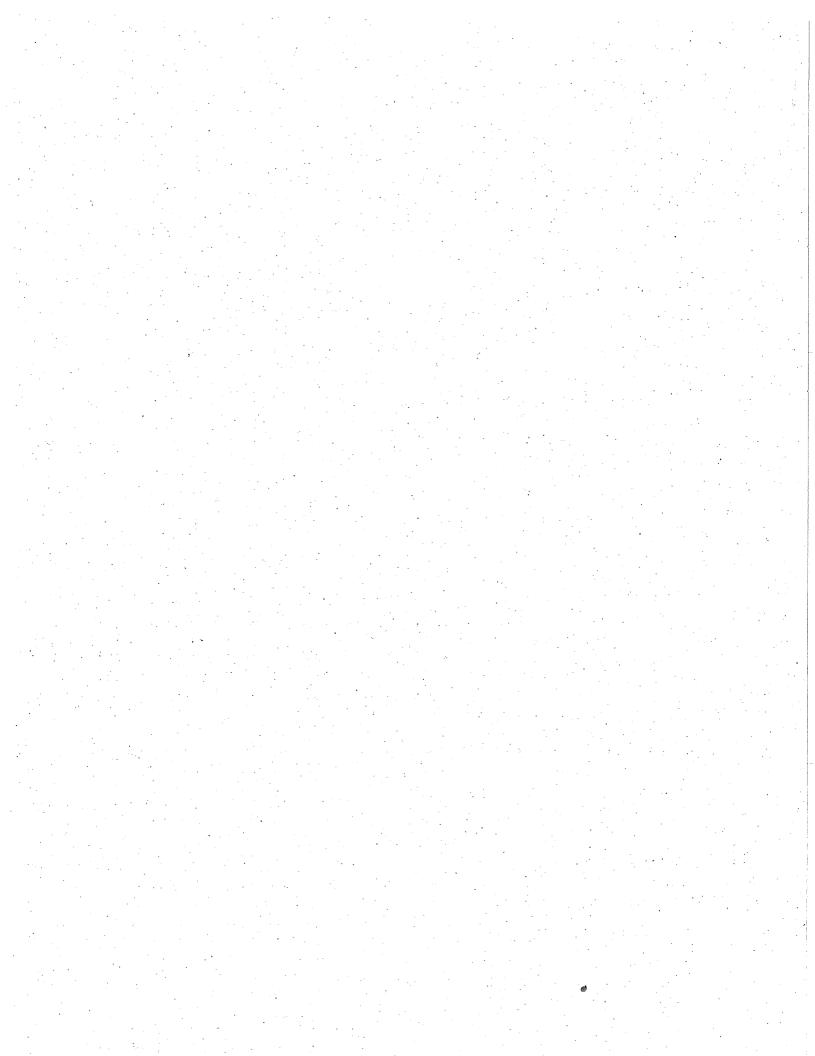
4. Future of ARET Reference Group

The question of whether or not the "ARET Reference Group" should formalise its' existence as a recognised caucus (the "Toxics Caucus") of the CEN was raised. There was agreement that this was desirable, but everyone decided to wait until the next CEN National Steering Committee meeting (in January) to submit a proposal. On an interim basis, the new name of the ARET Reference Group is: The ENGO/Labour Reference Group on Toxics.

Nominees for steering committee are: Chris Rolfe, Ross Hume Hall (resource person), Paul Muldoon, Dave Bennett.

TASK LIST

- Craig will get of a list of other stakeholders invited to the CEPA Review workshop
- Ross Hume Hall will send the SSSC list, and a one-page summary to Craig to be included in the packages.
- David Bennett, Paul Muldoon, Chris Rolfe to write a short "checklist" paper on toxics to take to consultation (November 23). Craig will mail a copy to all caucus chairs and it will be put on WEB.
- Craig will send out up-to-date financial statements.





ARET Meeting Participant List October 1-3, 1993

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ROSS HUME HALL, PH.D.

October 15, 1993

Mr. Craig Bolikovac Canadian Environmental Network P.O. Box 1289 Station B. Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5R3 Canada

Dear Craig: Re Toxic chemicals in the environment.

I share the frustration of many at the P.E.I. meeting. After years of working from the top down through Environment Canada and industry, the only product has been talk. The word action has disappeared from government's vocabulary. Perhaps the time has come to harness the strength of C.E. N., its grass roots. Play on the health issue. Personal health and threats to it can be a powerful motivating force for action.

Toxic chemical damage to people's health is well documented, especially harm to children. What disturbs me most is the fact pollutants scar the developing fetus, leaving on every unborn child a toxic signature.

As children grow, the signature reveals itself both in physical and mental damage. Every child is affected. This situation is intolerable. When people realize what is happening to their children and grandchildren they are going to get hot.

We need a hot action plan. The concepts of virtual elimination and zero discharge are already well established. The question: virtual elimination or zero discharge of what? The ARET list of priority candidates for sunset could serve as a rallying point. Other lists have appeared PSL 1, OMEE, United States EPA etc. The ARET list has one outstanding feature that sets it apart. It is a list arrived at with full participation of government, industry, labour and ENGOs. It its a consensus list.

Having said that, I should point out the ARET list contains practically all 21 chemicals on the Ontario primary list for phase out, on the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative list of 19, on the International Joint Commission list of 11 priority substances and on EPA's 1991 list of 25 chemicals of highest concern. The ARET list can be dynamite.

The list contained in the SSSC Draft 2 report (August 28, 1993) to ARET Steering Committee is SSSC's final report. Since submitting that document we had one more meeting to tidy up loose ends. We had some feedback from industry, but it has been minor — only three compounds — and didn't result in any revisions.

The SSSC list was strictly a professional operation. No economic or social considerations, no risk benefit entered the process. ARET will next take the list and circulate it to hundreds of industries for comment, the Tier Two review. At this point social, economic objections will be raised. For instance, we have already received one objection. What will mens' rooms do without the cake of paradichlorobenzene — one of the chemicals on the SSSC list — in urinals?

So I feel C.E.N. should work with the SSSC list as it stands and not the truncated version likely to come out of the Tier Two process.

The SSSC list needs to be put in user-friendly format before C.E.N. goes public with it. I see the chemicals on the list identified in the following way:

CAS number (if appropriate)
Where and how the item is produced
Major industry sectors where it is used
Clusters related to the item (class of chemicals)
Household products containing the item or class
Comments on health hazards if known: e.g., estrogen mimicker, carcinogen,

It will take some work and I recommend C.E.N. or a member NGO take the lead on this research.

Now some comments on the list. SSSC divided the chemicals into five lists:

- 1 (persistent and bioaccumulative)
- 2A (bioaccumulative),
- 2B (persistent)
- 3 (neither bioaccumulative or persistent).

Unnumbered: chemicals suspected of being hazardous, but lacked sufficient information to classify (Page 29 of Draft Report)

Every item on the first four lists is a proven highly toxic chemical.

SSSC did not attempt to prioritize. Items on list I are not necessarily more hazardous than those on other lists. Having said that, I suggest C.E.N. combine lists 1, 2A and 2B. All items are environmentally dangerous and the fact one chemical is bioaccumulative but not persistent or visa versa is not significant. I note Environment Canada for its PSL 2 criteria says persistent or bioaccumulative.

The items on list 3 are probably less hazardous from the environmental point of view because they rapidly degrade. But in the work place these substances can be hazardous by virtue of continuous exposure.

Pesticides: Lists 1, 2A and 2B contain a total of 24 pesticides and list 3 contains 5. Ag Canada (Wayne Ormrod to be exact) has requested that ARET delete all pesticides from the lists because they are being reviewed by Ag Canada. Ag Canada has reviewed pesticides for the last 15 years. Some review. Because of a cozy relation between Ag Canada and agribusiness, hazardous pesticides remain on the market.

I mention all this because when you see the official ARET list the pesticides wont be there. C.E.N. should use the SSSC list with the pesticides included because that is a scientifically based list, uncrippled by farm politics.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs): SSSC originally reviewed and listed PAHs as individual compounds. Lists 1, 2A and 2B contain 24 PAHs. The information on these 24 shows what a deadly class it is. PAHs are generated as waste products, literally thousands of them. SSSC, therefore, at its last meeting agreed to lump all PAHs together as a single entry on list one.

To help sort all this out, I include three hand written lists in which I have taken the items listed in SSSC Draft 2 report and regrouped them. I wrote out the list of PAHs and the list of pesticides for quick identification. I then listed all the remaining items from lists 1, 2A and 2B under General Compounds. The items on list 3 are in the report, page 29.

I also include a copy of a FAX (2 pages) from Nancy Sherwin, dated October 13, 1993. This Fax lists corrections and changes to the lists in the Draft 2 report. My hand written lists incorporate the changes.

Provenance of the SSSC lists. I have written an account of how the lists were constructed. I wrote it as if lists 1, 2A and 2B were merged into a single list. This write up is included on separate sheets.

With best wishes,

The Substance Selection Subcommittee (SSSC) of ARET consisted of eight professionals versed in chemistry, toxicology and environmental science: three from industry, one from Environment Canada, one from Health Canada, one from Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy, one from Canadian Labour Congress and one representing ENGOs.

SSSC started with a data base, known as CESARS (Chemical Evaluation Search and Retrieval System, Province of Ontario), containing about 2,000 chemicals. Most of the CESARS chemicals are found in waters of the Great Lakes basin. All entries have substantial toxicological data: carcinogenicity, bioaccumulation in animals, persistence in water, acute and chronic toxicity in aquatic and terrestrial animals and plants as well as human data when available. In short, CESARS represents the best toxicological information available. Selection of chemicals for the SSSC lists was done as follows:

1. For each entry, a Normalized Toxicity Score (NTS) based on a composite scoring of the toxicity factors was calculated. The NTS is a relative toxicity ranking between 0 and 60. SSSC arbitrarily selected a cut off point of 40.1 and higher. Compounds with NTS scores of less than 40.1 could be dangerous and should be reconsidered at some future date. In addition to substances with NTS of 40.1 or greater, SSSC looked for substances with and NTS of less than 40.1 but scored a top 10 in separate categories, such as, carcinogenicity, persistence or bioaccumulation. This then was the group of toxic chemicals that SSSC worked with. SSSC considers every chemical in this group as toxic and a potential hazard.

From the environmental perspective two properties are critical: bioaccumulation and persistence. SSSC divided this group of toxic chemicals into three lists:

- 1. Chemicals that are either persistent and/or bioaccumulative
- 2. Chemicals neither persistent or bioaccumulative
- 3. Chemicals suspected of being hazardous but lack of information prevented assignment to a list

The SSSC lists were arrived at solely on toxicological data and professional judgement. No questions of volume, exposure or risk benefit were considered.

SSSC did not assign priorities. Thus entries are listed alphabetically. Most of the entries are single chemicals. In some cases the entry is a mixture, e.g. PCBs and PAHs because that is the way the substance exists.

General Comments: List building requires data. Some 80,000 chemicals are produced commercially. Toxicology data are available for no more than a few thousand. In addition, hundreds of thousands of toxic chemicals are generated in smokestacks and waste streams. The dioxins and PAHs are good examples. Few waste products have been studied. In other words, a universe of toxic chemicals flood the environment for which we have no information.

Lack of data presents a dilemma when considering action strategies. But the situation is not all bleak. Within classes, toxicity of members can be similar. Thus if one member of a class is on the SSSC list, we can assume with good reason other members of the class will be toxic. Toxicity of individual chemicals within a class may vary in degree and nature. But from point of view of hazard, you don't want to be exposed to any member of the class.

With this in mind, individual toxic chemicals on the SSSC list represent a starting point to capture whole classes of related toxic substances that must be considered for action.

Summary of October 12, 1993 teleconference of ARET Substance Selection Subcommittee

Prepared by: Nancy Sherwin, ARET, Environment Canada

Date Wednesday October 13, 1993

Attendees:

Claude Fortin, Environment Canada

Ross Hall, Pollution Probe

Roger Keefe, CPPI

Brian Kohler, CLC

Adam Socha, Ontario Environment & Energy

Frank Wandelmaier, Health Canada

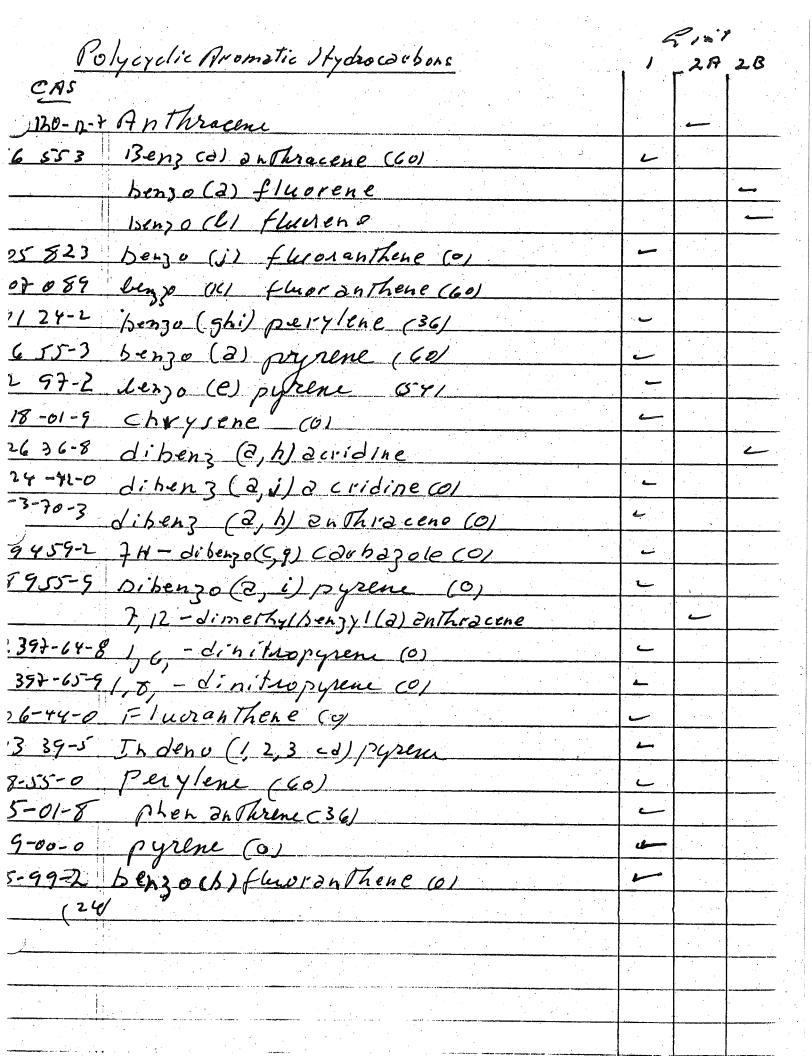
Kent Woodburn, CCPA

Chris Wren, MAC

Facilitator/scribe: Nancy Sherwin, ARET secretariat

- 1. para-dichlorobenzene: There was considerable discussion over the IARC 2B finding; it was noted that EPA had also determined a finding of "possible human carcinogen". It was eventually agreed that the substance would be kept on List 1, based on the screening rules agreed to, but would be annotated as "extensive discussion took place in the SSSC on the appropriateness of the IARC 2B ruling for this substance". [Note: comments on this wording by October 15 would be appreciated]
- 2. tetra ethyl lead: Since the persistence score was based on lead and not TEL, the substance was re-categorized as 2A. This uses a BCF score of 7, based on invertebrate BCF data (shrimps and oysters). The substance will be annotated to note that it degrades to lead, which is persistent.
- 3. Summary of changes to the list provided in the Draft 2 (August 28) report:
- p.14: benzo(b)fluoranthene should be added to List 1
- -p.16: annotate 1,4 dichlorobenzene as noted above
- -p.20: tetra ethyl lead: move to List 2A with annotation as noted above
- -p. 24: remove methyl isobutyl ketone (it's already listed correctly on List 3)
- -p. 25: the correct name is 2,8,4,6 tetrachlorophenol (not 2,3,4,5 tetrachloroethylene)
- -p. 26: MOEE TO CONFIRM SCORING STATUS OF acetonitrile (it was not on the score sheet)
- -p.26: should be 1-bromo-2-chloroethane, rather than 1-bromo-2-chloroethylene
- -p. 27: should be 2,4-dichlorophenol, not 2,4-dinitrophenol (the latter is already correctly listed on the low toxicity list)
- -p.27: add 1,2 dichlorobut-8-ene to List 3
- -p.28: toluene diisocyanate (mixture of 2,4 and 2,6 isomers)....NOT 1,4 and 1,6
- -p. 29: move hexachlorobutadiene to the "low toxicity" list on p. 31, based on IARC
- 3 ranking and NTS of 40 or less

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31-07-8 Endosulfan sulfate (0)	Yes	-		
-20-8 endsin (64)	yes	ٿ		
heptachla epoxide	401		-	
24-57-3 heplachlor axide	40			
-89-9 Lindahe r. Leaschlonocyclolesane.	50.4 yes	4		
\$ 2385-85 Mirex	4-4-5	•-		
Simazine Endeted to Athezine	yes			
01-35-2 Toxaphene (allinomen)	yes			
Triflualin	NO		_	
pentechlorophenol	kei	-		
< Alderson	Wo			
Atragine 24	yes			-
24	20			



Coneral Componends	Cl,		シカ	2 B
	-	PB		B
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	yes	1-13		
2-/va/sh thy/amine				L
Nickel (horganie, 14 spuble, schell)				_
2-Nitropropen				-
1,1,2,2 - TetrachloroeThylene	yes			_
2,3,4,6 - Tetrachloro ethylenephenol	yes	er er		4-
Tetra ethy//ead			L	
2, 4, 6- Trichlorophenol	yes			
36-36-3 PCB2 (all) (54)	yes			
2,378 Telmohlow dibenzo dioxin	1/21	L		
1,3, 7, 8 - Tetro chlorodibenzo furan	yes	-		
Silver (Soluble jnurgeric salts)				~
Thibterca				-
(esanium (in organi « nespisable, 10 hobb)				-
) in C (in organie, reguirelle, wheth)				L
47 3				
082-74-4 Octastyrene (40)	401			
7-86-5 Pentachlorophenol (pesticias)	yer			
78-73-3 J1; buty/Tin (57)		_		
47				
1,4- Dichloroto enzene	yes			
bis cz-Estylheayl)phthalate				
3,3-Dichlorobenzidene	yes			
50	23			
			·	
				

		,	12/	172/2/20 Ch/21/de
7				methyl 150 butyl 1ctme
		1	sak	101-14-4 44-medhylene. 6.5-22-chlnosniline)
				Bereund dihorganin
		-7		967-92-6mesty/ mercury, chank
7				Lead (all forms, except ally!)
		-	5=1	3-58-6 X-1402 Ch 1200 40/0 hexane cost
		-	rak	
				1= JAy/2h2 Oxide
				4-1-746X01B
	-			9: meth/ halalene (160me hor)
-7				4 6 - dinitacaend
			124	1)2 - d1.ch1010 cothane
	-		124	3,2- Ci. Chlasohensene
				20 bine 42
				2050
7				Colock
	*			Chromium ai
			134	L-Chlaro Folum
		-	124	Chloradibarmo methane
	1		12/1	C3/020 tom
			12/2	Curton Telmchloude
		_		(0) ye.1.cho.1 1/10/0/19/05 3 un 1 wpe) 3-84-03/
			10h	P1-1-[2-c/2/0100 e/hy pelha
-		-	124	
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ARET CONTRACT 1993-94 SSC 030SS.KA168-3-5018 CONTRACT KA168-3-5018/01-SS F.C. 2002-5204-82100-164-2239

	ACTUAL AS OF NOV. 30/93	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
CONTRACT AMOUNT	0.00	61,800.00	(61,800.00)
EXPENSES:			
I) PROFESSIONAL FEES	17,512.00	37,500.00	(19,988.00)
II) TELEPHONE, POSTAGE/FAX, TRAN PHOTOCOPIES/SUPPLIES	SLATION 1,099.67	4,200.00	(3,100.33)
III) TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION	14,129.81	16,500.00	(2,370.19)
VI) OFFICE RENTAL	0.00	3,600.00	(3,600.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	32,741.48	61,800,00	(29,058.52)
EXPENSES OVER REVENUE	(32,741.48)	0.00	(32,741.48)

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13 December 1993

File: 650-3-1



Hon Sheila Copps
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa K1A 0A6

Dear Ms Copps;

Re: Parliamentary Review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are requesting a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the Parliamentary Review of the <u>Canadian Environmental Protection-Act</u> (CEPA). As you know, the purpose of this review is to evaluate the implementation of CEPA over the past five years, and to bring forward recommendations for administrative, legislative, or policy reforms. The environmental community played an important role in the creation of this legislation, and wishes to be central player in the review as well.

Environmentalists across the country regard the Parliamentary Review as a fundamentally important undertaking for a number of reasons. First, it provides hope that CEPA will be improved to arrest the continually growing problem of toxic contamination of the Canadian environment. Second, it will provide a forum for the public to highlight the important developments in the approaches to the prevention and elimination of toxic pollution. Third, it will be a signal of your government's commitment to pollution prevention, as emphasized in <u>Creating Opportunity: The Liberal Plan for Canada</u>.

It is not often a piece of legislation is subjected to a public review five years after proclamation. As with other concerned parties, the environmental movement will bring forward substantive issues during the review. However, in the wake of the national consultation meeting held 23 and 24 November 1993, we are now very concerned about the process in place leading up to the Parliamentary review. In particular, among our concerns are the following:

1. The process for the formulation of the Department of the Environment's submission to the Parliamentary Committee remains unclear. More alarming to us, the Department has yet



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to establish its goals and objectives for upcoming review, and for the longer term as well.

If support is to be garnered for the Department's submission, other parties must know in advance what reforms to CEPA they hope to achieve through this public review.

2. There is no plan or strategy in place to include the views of environmentalists and labour in the Parliamentary Review.

In our view, it is essential that such a strategy be clearly stated, and there be a coherent and effective mechanism for public input into the review.

3. The level of information that was provided to the participants in the national consultation meeting was inadequate for the evaluation of CEPA's performance.

It is crucial that the Department make available to concerned parties all studies, reports, surveys, and other relevant information on which the Departmental submission is being built.

We are extremely concerned that the Parliamentary Review will be a missed opportunity to improve a statute that has not functioned as well as hoped for in the first five years of implementation.

These concerns are of the utmost importance to us, and are shared by environmental and labour groups that attended the national consultation meeting. We kindly request a short meeting with you at your convenience to discuss them.

Yours very truly,

Glen Okrainetz

Canadian Arctic Resources Committee

Hen Okrain

Susan Tanner Friends of the Earth Paul Muldoon Pollution Probe