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Final Report
Summary of Proceedings
Future of ARET Workshop

held in
Ottawa, Ontario
December 11, 1997

Prepared for: ARET Workshop Participants

Prepared by: Hajo Versteeg

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FUTURE OF ARET WORKSHOP: SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. BACKGROUND

ARET (Accelerated Reduction/Elimination of Toxics) is a voluntary non-regulatory program which aims to achieve the virtual elimination of emissions of 30 persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (PBTs), and the reduction of another 87 toxic substance emissions to levels insufficient to cause harm.

ARET grew out of a proposal from leading industry executives and environmentalists (the New Directions Group) to the federal Minister of Environment in late 1991. The New Directions Group proposed a cooperative approach to first identify, then reduce or eliminate the most significant toxic substances. The Minister responded by launching, in 1992, a group now known as the ARET Stakeholders Committee. The Committee originally included representatives from industry, health and professional associations, federal and provincial governments, and aboriginal, environmental and labour groups. The Committee's first task was evaluating the toxicity of thousands of substances, then forging agreement on ranking these substances.

By late 1993, the Committee finished its work on identifying, assessing and categorizing a list of 117 toxic substances for immediate action. However, the Committee could not reach consensus on the issue of eliminating toxics use as opposed to reducing emissions of toxics. The viability of voluntary approach to achieve action on toxics was also questioned. Pollution Probe, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Toxics Watch Society of Alberta, the West Coast Environmental Law Association, Great Lakes United and Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature withdrew from the ARET Stakeholders Committee in September 1993. The remaining members chose to continue the ARET process to achieve environmental results.

The ARET Challenge

In early 1994, the ARET Stakeholders Committee challenged selected Canadian companies, particularly in the resource and manufacturing sectors, as well as government departments and agencies to voluntarily reduce or eliminate emissions of ARET substances to achieve specific targets by the year 2000: 90% for the 30 most harmful toxic substances (PBTs) and 50% for the other 87 toxic substances. Participants were asked to state their commitments in publicly available action plans. The first action plans were submitted at the end of 1994. An overview of the emission levels and emission reduction commitments contained in the action plans received by January 1995 is reported in *Environmental Leaders 1*. In January 1997, *Environmental Leaders 2*, was published. This report was the first to publish ARET results which, overall, amounted to reduction in emissions of 17,460 tonnes of toxic substances. The report focuses on actual progress made since 1993 in achieving participants' year 2000 targets. An update of this publication is expected in January 1998.

ARET Beyond 2000

In September 1997, the ARET Stakeholders Committee agreed to sponsor a one-day workshop on the Future of ARET. The stated objective of the Workshop was to identify and discuss issues, ideas and actions that must be addressed in developing a path forward for ARET as a voluntary initiative beyond 2000. The Committee recognized that the Workshop deliberations would benefit from the participation of all those who had an interest in ARET, and not just those who were currently included in the program. Therefore, invitations were sent to representatives of industry associations who do not currently endorse the ARET program. As well invitations were sent, through the Toxics Caucus of the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN), to the environmental and labour groups that withdrew from the ARET process in 1993.¹ Environmental

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organizations not directly affiliated with the Toxics Caucus were also invited to participate and did so. The Workshop, which was held on December 11, 1997 in Ottawa, was attended by 31 participants representing industry, academic and environmental organizations, and federal and provincial governments. The List of Participants is included as Appendix 1 of this Report.

Structure of the Workshop

Prior to the Workshop, participants were given the opportunity to input into the procedural and substantive content of the Workshop. Workshop issues were identified following discussions with several participants and from documents written about the ARET program. The eight identified issues were: evaluating ARET; verifying results; increasing participation; adding ARET substances to the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI); setting ARET targets beyond 2000; expanding ARET; role for public participation; and, role for governments.

The letter of invitation included a request form listing several of the background documents (see Appendix 2). The Workshop consisted of an introductory plenary, breakout sessions and a closing plenary. Participants were assigned to one of two Breakout groups to allow for focused discussions on the identified issues. During the closing plenary, each group provided a report on its deliberations and engaged in a general discussion. The next section, summarizing the Workshop deliberations, is based primarily on the two Breakout Group reports to plenary. Copies of the background documents request form, the Workshop Agenda and structure, and the eight identified issues are contained in Appendix 2 of this Report. The flipchart notes from the Breakout Group deliberations are included in Appendix 3.

the Evaluation of ARET. Therefore, any general agreement by participants identified in the body of this Report on other than the subject of Evaluation does not include the representative of the CEN Toxics Caucus.

2. Summary of Workshop Deliberations on the Eight Identified Issues

2.1. Evaluation of the ARET Program

All participants expressed strong support for a comprehensive, independent third party evaluation of the ARET program. Discussion focused on when the evaluation should take place, what form it should take, and who should conduct the evaluation. With respect to the evaluation of the ARET program itself, all participants felt strongly that an open, transparent and inclusive process was essential to ensure credibility and acceptance of the results. Several participants discussed the need to conduct an evaluation of the ARET program both now, especially if corrective action/redesign of the program is to occur, and in 2001, after the final results are available. There was considerable support among participants for an immediate evaluation. Several participants felt that, as a preliminary step in the evaluation process, there should be a study conducted on the role, principles and merits of voluntary initiatives and regulatory initiatives as components of an environmental management framework. Against this backdrop, the role of ARET and "how it fits into the larger Canadian environmental protection context" could then be properly evaluated.

It was noted that Environment Canada would soon be undertaking a program review of ARET, which would focus on whether the resources allocated to ARET were "well spent."

Some participants noted that, although a government program review was useful, a more useful evaluation would be one which investigated whether ARET has fulfilled broader environmental policy objectives. Such an evaluation would be more comprehensive, measuring both the absolute performance of the program (ie., were the targets met?) as well as the relative performance of the program (ie., comparing the results achieved under ARET with what might have been expected if other policy instruments had been employed, such as regulation). Such an evaluation could assess whether larger emission reductions have been achieved in a shorter amount of time,

than might have been the case under regulatory requirements (scheduling under CEPA? other regulation?). In addition, it was suggested that ARET could be compared with such programs as the US EPA 33/50 program. Some participants suggested that it was also very important to examine how the documentation of releases and encouragement of action under ARET has changed the attitudes and practices of ARET participants. Would these changes have happened without ARET?

A number of workshop participants referred to difficulties in determining what "might have been achieved" under regulations and then comparing this to results under ARET. The costs of carrying out a larger evaluation were also cited as a limitation.

Some participants suggested that both a narrow absolute performance review and a more comprehensive evaluation would be useful.

There was widespread agreement that any evaluation that was carried out should be conducted by a third party and that all stakeholders be included in the drafting of Terms of Reference.

It was also suggested that the Auditor General's Office or the Office of the Environmental Commissioner might be asked to evaluate ARET. An AG evaluation of ARET could be done with the aid of ARET stakeholders and other interested parties. One participant cautioned that an AG evaluation might be too narrowly focused.

2.2 Verification

All participants agreed that verification of the reported releases of ARET substances is critical for ensuring credibility and confidence in the ARET program. Many participants pointed out that various verification efforts were already taking place in the form of publicly available reports, third-party audits (Responsible Care®), internal audits (in some larger companies), and through NPRI (it is possible to verify some releases by comparing NPRI and ARET data).

2.5 Increase Participation in the ARET Program

Participants generally felt that the question of why participants agree to become involved in ARET has not been comprehensively answered. Despite research and outreach activities by the ARET Secretariat and others, recruiting new members to respond to the ARET Challenge remains a difficult task. Many participants felt that a positive evaluation of the ARET program could encourage new participants. Some participants agreed that duplicative/overlapping initiatives and reporting requirements, existing commitments, competing government initiatives, lack of political leadership/provincial engagement and poor ARET public relations all act as disincentives. Also, some participants felt that asking industry to track how emissions are reduced or eliminated in addition to tracking the results could act as a disincentive because it is a more costly and time consuming process.

Participants discussed a number of incentives for increasing participation:

- providing flexibility (for example, in the timelines, targets or base year) for new participants. Some participants cautioned, however, that too much flexibility might impair the credibility of the program.
- tracking the pre- and post- ARET participation emissions. Some kind of recognition could be given to the reductions already achieved by new recruits before joining ARET and then a post-membership measurement program could be set up.
- exploring/enhancing the linkages between MOUs and ARET. The emphasis here is on ensuring transparency (what are the requirements under the two and how to link them), recognizing MOU requirements under ARET, and linking verification for MOUs and ARET.
- providing a regulatory threat to encourage acceptance of the program by free-riders, non-participants.

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The problem, however, is that there is very little consistency; ARET participants verify their reductions in various ways using different methods that are not always comparable. It was widely agreed within the group that these verification problems detracted from the credibility of ARET. A number of industry participants registered their readiness to submit to third-party verification, as it would result in the credible recognition of their reduction actions. Some participants noted that it may be more productive to first carry out the evaluation of the ARET program, and then to verify releases.

A number of formats for verification were suggested:

- All ARET releases could be tracked through the NPRI, although it was noted that differing requirements under the two programs do pose a problem.
- A regular audit could be made a condition of ARET participation, although there was concern expressed that this might act as a disincentive to participation in the program.
- An independent, third party "hard audit" could be carried out on a random basis. Government scientists and environmental professionals (eg, planning engineers) could be involved in the audit. Concerns were expressed about a possible disincentive effect.
- A system of "peer audits" might be constructed, whereby a panel of other industry participants (sectoral or nonsectoral) or sector associations verify the reductions claimed by a particular company. This might encourage cross-fertilization of best practices. However, it was noted that such a system might pose a threat to the confidentiality of business information and that it might not appear credible to outside stakeholders.
- The "juried verification of the largest claimed reductions" (a certain percentage?) as opposed to a facility-by-facility verification, could be carried out on the basis on established criteria. An "awards system" could be built into this juried verification in order to

properly recognize those companies that achieve the greatest reductions.

- Some participants suggested that the current situation might simply be made more transparent, ie., that companies be more open and formal about the manner in which they are currently verifying their reductions.

Many participants raised concerns about what exactly should be verified - emissions, environmental management systems and/or processes? More generally, participants agreed that the verification process and its quality depended on adequate resources to do a proper job and the quality of the data. Sectors that have small and medium sized enterprises and associations representing them should receive help in the verification process. It was also noted that any planning/verification structure required a longer term perspective (beyond the year 2000). In addition, it was suggested that guidelines on data "verifiability" were needed. Many participants agreed that the verification process needed to include "consequences" when there were discrepancies between reported and verified data.

There was general agreement that any verification system used would have to involve stakeholders and/or communities.

2.3 Public Participation

All participants agreed that it was very important to involve "the public" in ARET. The questions arose, however: "in what capacity should the public be involved?" and "what public(s) should be involved?"

Possibilities for public involvement discussed by participants included:

- ENGO involvement through the ARET Stakeholder Committee
- Community, Citizen Advisory Group involvement in facility implementation of the ARET objectives.

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- ENGO, third-party involvement in design/conduct of verification processes.
 - ENGO, third-party involvement in evaluation!

It was emphasized by some participants that the key to future ENGO involvement in ARET was a credible evaluation of the program now. Some participants identified ENGO concerns that voluntary initiatives should not replace regulatory initiatives. ENGO participation is impacted by scarce human and financial resources and available expertise. The result is that ENGOs have to make hard choices about which initiatives to pursue. Some participants noted that industries/individual companies also have unique needs/concerns, including, for example, union agreements, community agreements and so forth.

It was also noted that there was a need to consult stakeholders on the consultation process itself.

2.4 Role of Government

The federal government² was seen by workshop participants as performing a variety of roles:

- as “participant” in the ARET program itself and complying with the ARET guidelines. It was noted that government, including Crown Corporations, does not always, but should meet the ARET challenge.
- as a “nurturing leader”. It was emphasized that government needs to be active in setting future directions for the ARET program, along with other governments (i.e., provinces), and in a consultative manner. Ongoing evaluation and education of other governments and the public were activities that could be included in this role. Many participants felt that the federal government could consolidate ARET players (local, provincial, federal, etc.) to

² Although it was anticipated that the role of government would include a discussion of all levels of government, the Workshop discussion tended to focus primarily on the role of Environment Canada.

avoid the development of “splinter groups”, and should act as a coordinator and arbitrator for the ARET program. Other possible “leadership” roles that were identified for the federal government by participants included:

- ⇒ setting targets
- ⇒ establishing regulations
- ⇒ ensuring a level playing field
- ⇒ coordinating international environmental agreements that influence/could be influenced by ARET
- ⇒ verifying the process and the results
- ⇒ promoting fiscal measures, incentives and rewards
- ⇒ providing government/political endorsement

Ongoing evaluation of ARET and education of other governments and the public were activities that would be carried out in this role. A number of participants agreed that federal officials face a difficult task in satisfying the role that different stakeholders expect of them. It was noted that the CCME should be encouraged to play a more active role in the ARET program.

- as a “guardian” of the ARET program. Participants noted that it was important that ARET remain a “national” program, so that its cross-provincial and cross-sectoral nature be protected.

Many participants felt that the federal government also had a role to play in dealing with free-riders, in order to protect the integrity of the program. Concern about declining federal budgets and competing demands for limited resources was raised.

2.5 Increase Participation in the ARET Program

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- focusing more on cross-sectoral dynamics/encouragement of industry action. There appears to be considerable encouragement within sectors, but cross-sectoral activities need to be stepped up.
 - encouraging peer pressure and publicly highlighting non-participants
 - promoting awareness of ARET program with industry
 - promoting preferential government policies that favour ARET participants

2.6 *Targets Beyond Year 2000*

Some participants emphasized that the objectives of the ARET program needed to be constantly updated. For example, participants needed to work toward going beyond the 90%-50% targets, although it was recognized that achieving reductions beyond these targets would occur much more slowly. However, the focus needs to be on continuous improvement over the longer term.

There was considerable support among industry participants for expanding ARET to include new substances of concern (eg, particulates), although the requirements/expectations for these new substances might differ greatly. It was suggested that expanding ARET might also serve to increase provincial interest in the program.

However, most participants agreed that an evaluation of the program is needed to determine how successful it has been, and that an evaluation right now would help guide the expansion/extension of ARET.

Several participants suggested that "ARET-1" should run its course to 2000, and then launch "ARET-2" with companies that have not "graduated" from ARET-1. Others agreed that the ARET program

should be continued and expanded to include new substances beyond 2000.

Several participants agreed on the desirability of establishing a target date for the virtual elimination of the listed PBT substances. Also concern was expressed that adding substances to the ARET list or tightening targets beyond 2000 was a complex exercise. Some sectors have already set new targets beyond 2000. Adding or reclassifying substances is resource intensive. However, a more comprehensive list may encourage new ARET participants.

2.7 Adding ARET to NPRI³

Federal and provincial government representatives and environmental groups generally favored adding ARET substances to NPRI, but there were divided views among industry groups.

Discussion concerning this issue focused primarily on the advantages and disadvantages of combining the reporting procedures of ARET and NPRI, as follows:

- Arguments favouring combining include
 - ⇒ ease of reporting through "one window"
 - ⇒ mandatory reporting in a voluntary program would increase credibility
 - ⇒ new process would strengthen NPRI (speed it up)
 - ⇒ process could "catch" PBTs, including micropollutants, without a quantity trigger
 - ⇒ process would help identify free riders
 - ⇒ enables the tracking of releases from all sources
- Do not combine:
 - ⇒ technical difficulties, and definitions used for ARET and NPRI are sometimes difficult to reconcile/compare
 - ⇒ combining would mix signals for voluntary initiatives which promote challenge commitments with command-and-control

³ The issues addressed in Sections 2.7 and 2.8 were only discussed in one of the Breakout Groups. However, they were reported and discussed by all participants in the Closing Plenary.

efforts that do not necessarily foster cooperative challenge commitments

- ⇒ ARET has “better” public relations
- ⇒ NPRI is too slow
- ⇒ the programs are sector specific
- ⇒ the merged reporting would have to address the complex “micro-pollutants” issue

2.8 Expanding ARET

Most participants generally agreed that the premise of ARET is that:

- it is voluntary in nature
- it is a reporting program
- it focuses on the reduction/elimination of emissions of toxic substances
- it is a challenge program
- it requires stakeholder involvement
- it requires monitoring
- it is a “flagship” for volunteerism

Participants also agreed that before expanding ARET, the current program should be evaluated to show what works and what does not work. It may be necessary to design new initiatives to address specific needs.

The ARET momentum should be continued to build on success, promote existing mechanism and combine efforts where possible to avoid duplication of effort.

Following evaluation, the need to expand ARET and the specific substances (particulates? endocrine disrupters?) could then be considered.

3. NEXT STEPS

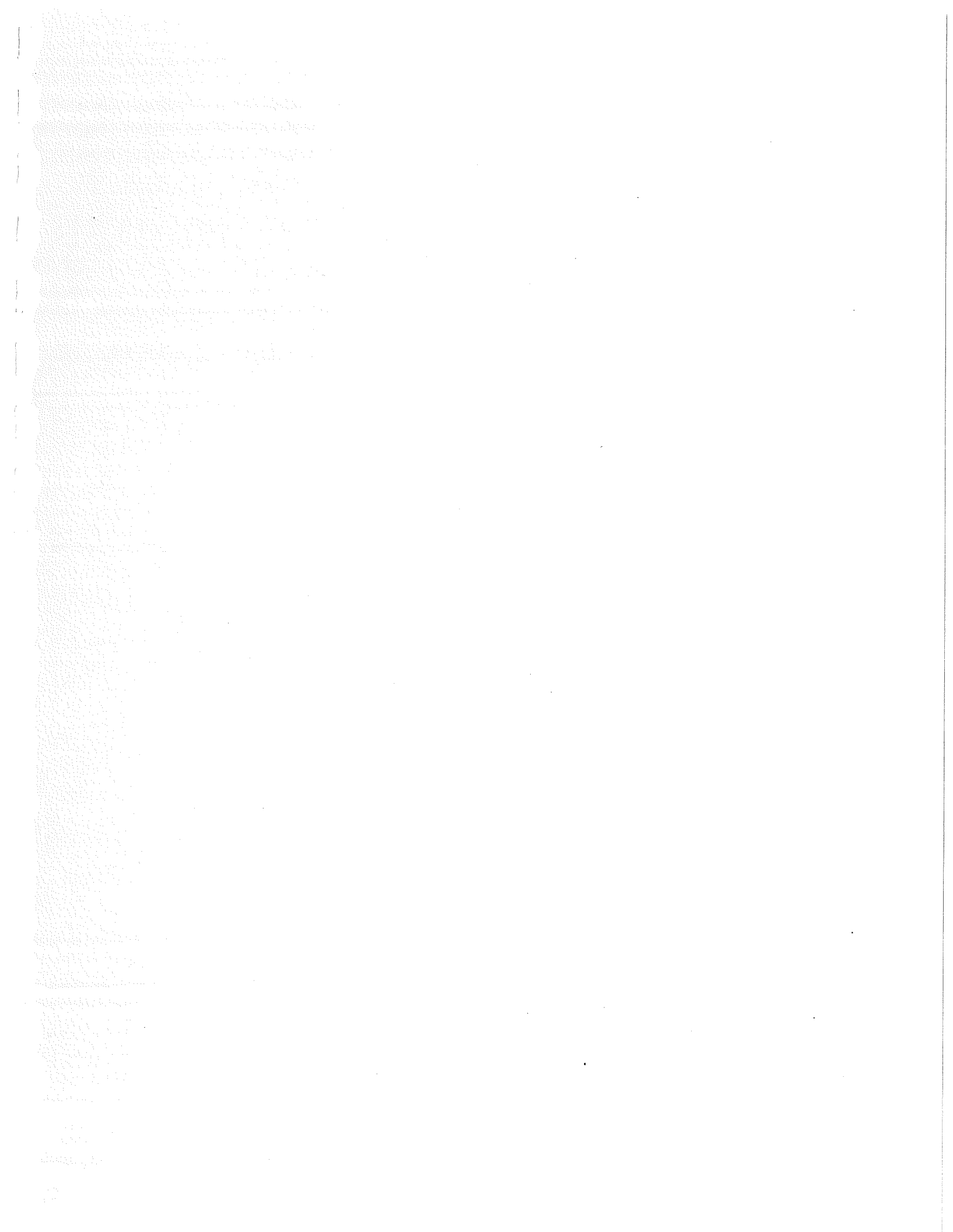
Most participants agreed that the Workshop was a successful first step in identifying and discussing issues, ideas and actions that must be addressed in developing a path forward for ARET beyond 2000.

All participants agreed that designing and implementing a comprehensive, independent third party evaluation of the ARET program was critical to the success and credibility of the program. All participants agreed that stakeholders should be given full and fair opportunity to participate in the evaluation process. The process should begin as soon as reasonably possible and should have clearly identified timeframes.

Some participants recommended that the federal government develop a policy framework for voluntary initiatives. Some others felt that the federal government should develop a legislative framework for voluntary initiatives.

Participants agreed on the need to develop a position paper on the identified issues for presentation to the ARET Stakeholder Committee for action. All stakeholders, including ENGOs, should be given the opportunity to help develop the position paper(s). Perhaps another Workshop is needed to discuss/produce the Position Paper(s).

At its next meeting, the ARET Stakeholder Committee should identify the next steps to be addressed to ensure that all necessary work is completed in time to move ARET forward beyond 2000.



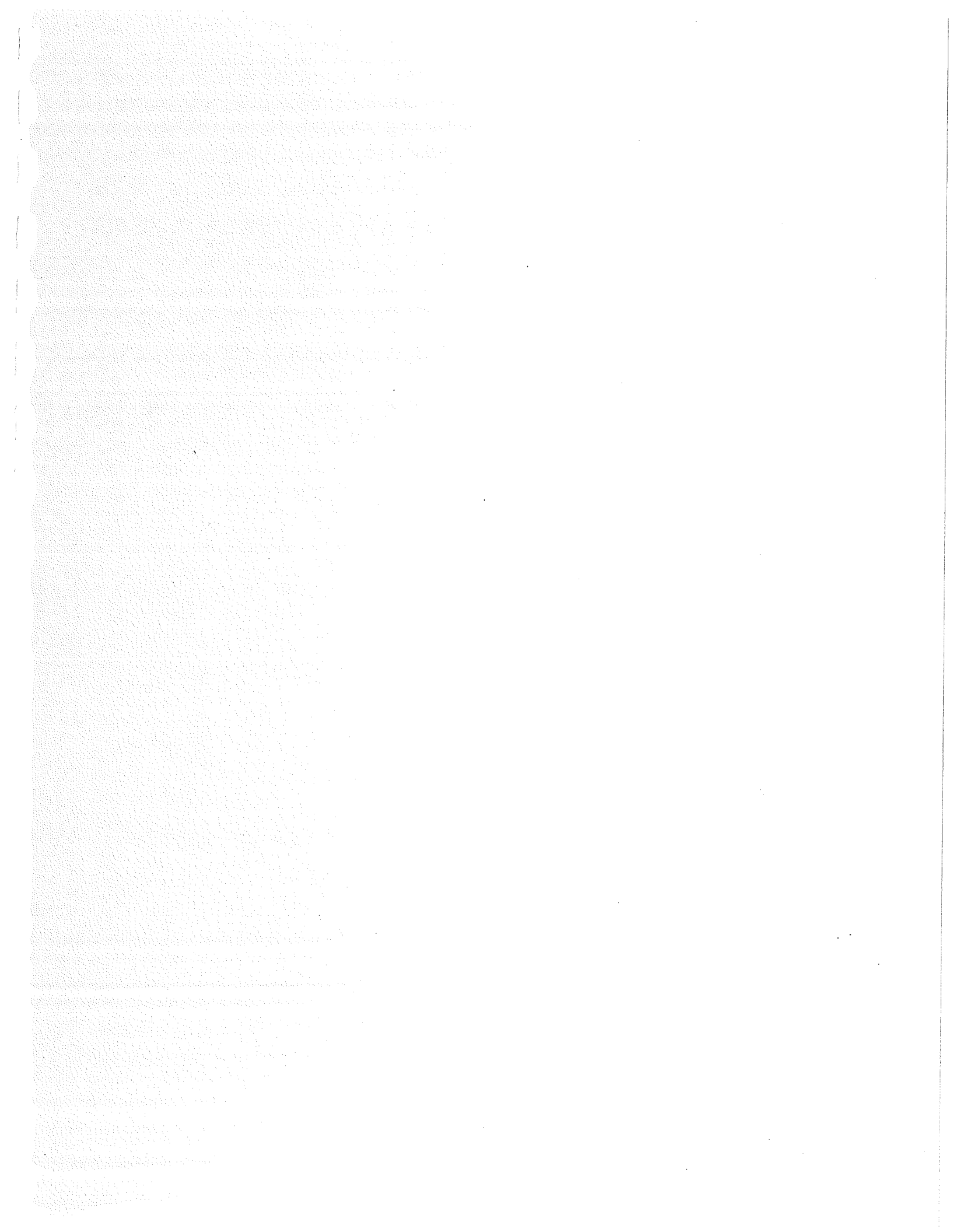
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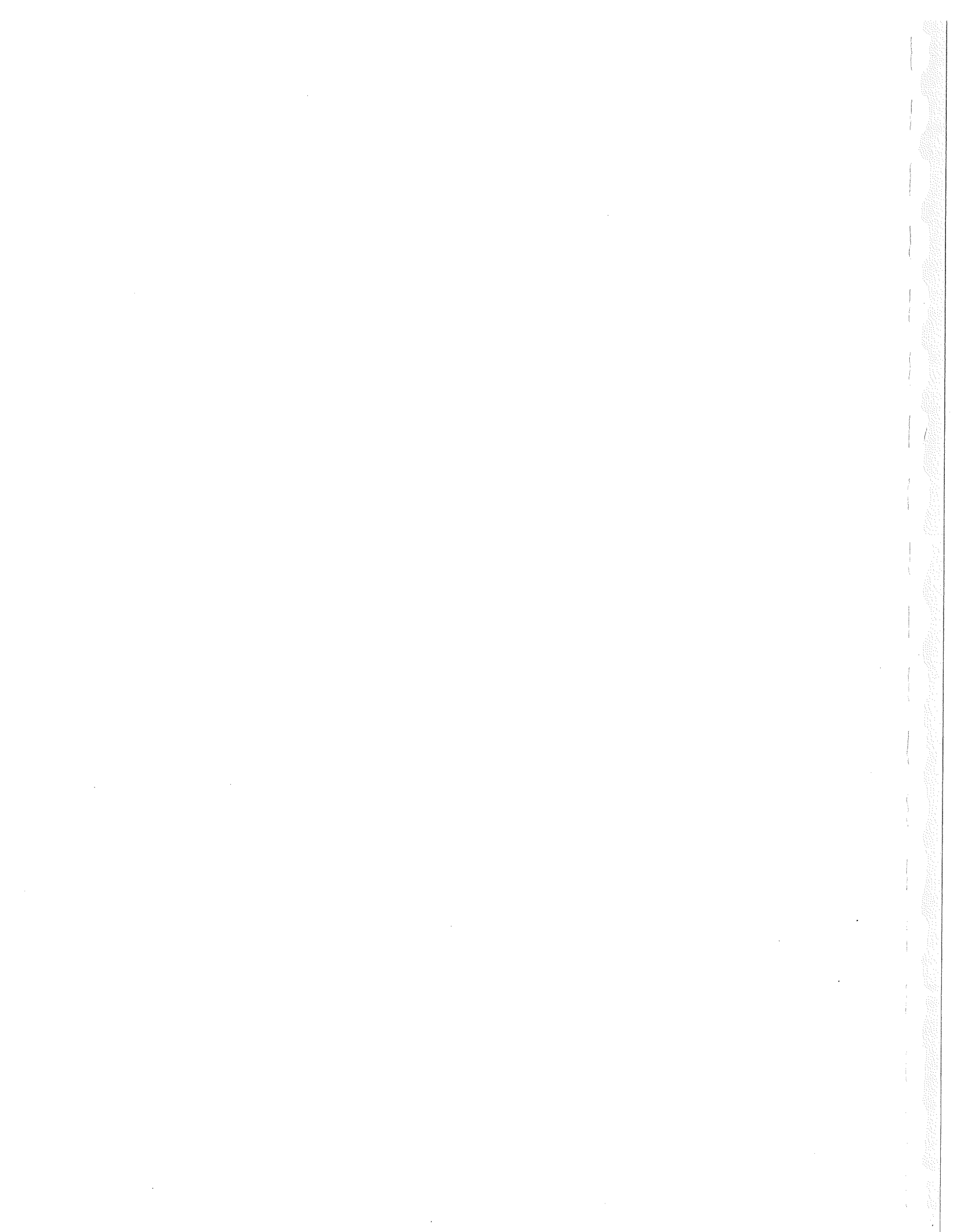
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<p>Gordon Lloyd Vice President, Technical Affairs Canadian Chemical Producers' Assoc. 350 Sparks Street, Suite 805 Ottawa ON K1R 7S8</p> <p>Tel: (613) 237-6225x246 Fax: (613) 237-4061 E-mail: glloyd@ccpa.ca</p>	<p>Ken Ogilvie Pollution Probe 12 Madison Avenue Toronto ON M5R 2S1</p> <p>Tel: (416) 926-1907 Fax: (416) 926-1601 Email: ogilvie@pollutionprobe.org</p>
<p>Gay Richardson Environmental Affairs Canadian Steel Producers Association 1425 - 50 O'Connor Street Ottawa ON K1P 6L2</p> <p>Tel: (613) 238-6049 Fax: (613) 238-1832 Email: g.richardson@canadiansteel.ca</p>	<p>James Riordan Director National Office of Pollution Prevention Environment Canada 351 St-Joseph Boulevard, 13th Floor Hull QC K1A 0H3</p> <p>Tel: (819) 953-3353 Fax: (819) 953-7970 Email: James.Riordan@ec.gc.ca</p>

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<p>Erin Windatt Industry Canada, Environmental Affairs Branch 235 Queen Street, 7th Floor Ottawa ON K1A 0H5</p> <p>Tel: (613) 941-8535 Fax: (613) 954-3419 Email: windatt.erin@ic.gc.ca</p>	





FUTURE OF ARET WORKSHOP

December 11, 1997
 Citadel Hotel, Victoria Room
 101 Lyon Street
 Ottawa, Ontario

OBJECTIVE: identify and discuss issues, ideas and actions that must be addressed in developing a path forward for ARET beyond 2000

OUTPUT: Facilitator's Report containing a summary of issues, ideas and actions identified by participants; and a summary of possible next steps to address issues, ideas and actions

AGENDA

08:00-08:30	Registration (confirm assignment to your breakout group)	
PLENARY SESSION ONE		
08:30-08:35	Welcome and introductions	J. Riordan
08:35-08:45	Structure of workshop (includes "ground rules") - see Tab 4	H. Versteeg (facilitator)
08:45-10:00	Overview of identified issues, ideas and actions - see Tab 5	A. Chung
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break	
BREAKOUT SESSION ONE		
10:15-12:00	Participants report to groups to discuss issues, ideas and actions	
12:00-13:00	Lunch (provided)	
BREAKOUT SESSION TWO		
13:00-14:45	Continue Breakout group discussions	
14:45-15:00	Coffee Break	
PLENARY SESSION TWO		
15:00-17:30	Groups report to Plenary and discuss outputs, including Next Steps	
17:30	Meeting Adjourned	

NOTE: Please try NOT to book out flights prior to 18:30.

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Proposed Structure for Workshop (Including Breakout Sessions)

A. INTRODUCTION

The Workshop is divided into an Introductory Plenary, two Breakout Sessions and a Concluding Plenary. The Introductory Plenary will provide an overview of the identified issues, ideas and actions that must be addressed in developing a path forward for ARET beyond 2000. The Breakout Sessions will allow participants to engage in a more focused discussion on identified issues, ideas and actions. During the Concluding Plenary, each Breakout group will provide a report on its deliberations and engage in a general discussion. Next steps needed to address the identified issues will also be discussed.

Following the Workshop, the facilitator will distribute to participants a draft Summary Report of the deliberations (based primarily on the Breakout Session Reports to Plenary). Participants will be asked to comment on whether or not the Report fairly and accurately reflects the Workshop deliberations. Following a reasonable response period, the facilitator will consolidate all appropriate comments and submit a Final Report to the ARET Stakeholders Committee, Workshop participants and interested parties.

B. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Workshop participants will be tentatively assigned to one of two or three Breakout Groups, and are asked to confirm their assignment at the Registration Desk on December 11. Each Group will include representation from the various stakeholder groups in attendance. Each Group will also include a process leader and a rapporteur.

In order to provide some structure to the Breakout Sessions, participants in the Breakout groups are asked to consider, but are not limited to, the agenda items outlined in Tab 5.

ISSUES, IDEAS AND ACTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING WORKSHOP

1. Evaluating ARET
 - When and how should the ARET program be evaluated
2. Verification
 - Is there a need for verification of ARET results
 - What are the characteristics of a verification process
 - How would the process be implemented
3. Increase Participation in ARET
 - How to identify and deal with emitters who release ARET substances but have not committed to the ARET program
 - Comprehensiveness of reporting by ARET participants
4. Add ARET Substances to NPRI
 - Is there a need
 - How can this be done
5. Targets Beyond 2000
 - How do we set targets beyond 2000 for current substances
 - Do we want to add substances that meet ARET criteria and, if so, how do we set targets beyond 2000 for these additional substances
6. Expanding ARET
 - Should ARET be expanded to include issues of national concern (for example, smog, acid rain, particulates, ozone)
 - How can this be done
7. Role for Public Participation
 - In ARET Stakeholder Committee
 - Other
8. Role for Governments
9. Other

Fax to: Alain Chung at (819) 994-7762

Please forward the following background documents:

- ARET Participation Guide.** ARET Secretariat (1996).
- ARET Voluntary Codes Project.** William Leiss and Associates (June 1997).
- Comparison of 1993 ARET and NPRI Data.** ARET Secretariat (December 1995).
- Criteria and Principles for the Use of Voluntary or Non-Regulatory Initiatives (VNRIS) to Achieve Environmental Protection Objectives.** New Directions Group (available for distribution in mid-November).
- Environmental Leaders 1: Voluntary Commitments to Action on Toxics through ARET.** ARET Secretariat (March 1995).
- Environmental Leaders 1: Update.** ARET Secretariat (December 1995).
- Environmental Leaders 2: Voluntary Action on Toxic Substances.** ARET Secretariat (January 1997).
- Lessons Learned from ARET: A Qualitative Survey of Perceptions of Stakeholders.** School of Policy Studies, Queen's University (April 1996).
- Non-Regulatory Initiatives for Chemical Risk Reduction: Final Report.** OECD (September 1996).
- Results of a Survey of ARET Non-Participants.** Anacapa Consulting Services (April 1997).
- Voluntary Emissions Reduction: The Mining Industry and the ARET Program.** Mining Association of Canada (1997).
- Voluntary Environmental Action: A Participant's View of ARET.** David R. Roewade (June 1996).
- Voluntary Environmental Measures: The Canadian Experience.** Gary Gallon (March 1997).
- Voluntary Pollution Prevention Initiatives: Some Reflections on Government's Role in Ensuring Public Involvement.** Debora L. VanNijnatten, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University (1997).

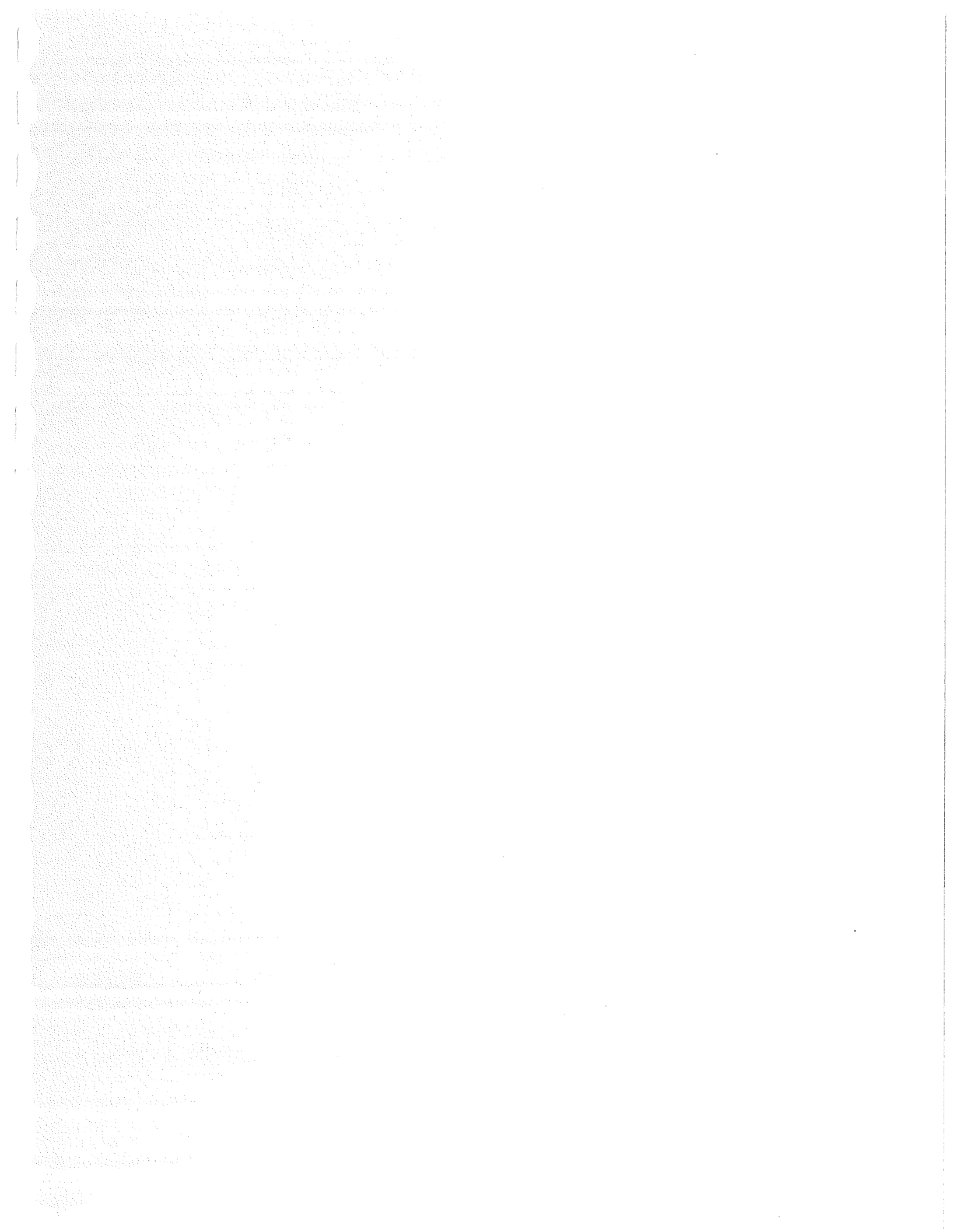
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Notes from Breakout SessionsPrioritization of Issues for Discussion

- Evaluation
- All eight
- Add weaknesses
 - resource allocation
 - base year
 - level playing field
 - no consequences
- Add NDG principles

1. EVALUATION +++

- Look at big picture
- Compared to other options
- third party +
- Has it met objectives?
- Timing: improve ARET in parallel with evaluation
- transparent, inclusive
- address objectives of various groups
- measurement protocols
- audit reports
- evaluate “drives”: what motivates performance?
- adequacy of resources
- level of participation

2. VERIFICATION

- Yes important +
- develop protocols (industry sectors)
- third party audits (selected by NGOs?, government)
- sector associations to lead: some better equipped than others
- how extensive? Comprehensive versus random
- standardize reporting
- adequate resources required
- consequences?
- transparency
- small companies or those outside of associations may have difficulty
- peer self-help within sector?
- EMS versus emissions ++
- role of professional associations in verification

- no single approach
- quality index

3. PARTICIPATION

- WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
- duplication with NPRI: onerous reporting
- ease reporting to increase participation
- increase number of substances being reported on
- peer pressure by industry leaders
- ▼
- government preferential purchasing policies
- ▼
- publicize non-participation
- ▼
- regulatory threat
- include other emitters, eg, agriculture, government
- causes:
 - ⇒ other environmental priorities?
 - ⇒ duplication with other programs (P₂ MOU)
 - ⇒ change focus, narrower/more specific
- should various Vas be merged?
- increase visibility of program would help
- do we need to increase participation? why?
- federal government has done what it can but provinces must buy in because their support is important
- CCME should reaffirm support
- push crown corporations to participate
- [Mins could do more]
- target big emitters

4. NPRI

- should some ARET substances be taken off list?
- definitions between ARET/NPRI sometimes different
- make needed changes to merge reporting +
 - ⇒ add ARET substances to NPRI [xx (Russ list)
 - ⇒ address inconsistencies (threshold nomenclature) +
 - ⇒ cost of monitoring micropollutants
 - ⇒ cost of specialting metals
 - ⇒ too many substances to track
- separate mandatory from voluntary ++ - "edge of the wedge"
- allow ARET to report through NPRI if participants want
- strengthening NPRI good

- NPRI can help identify free-riders
- mandatory reporting in voluntary program increases credibility

5. TARGETS PAST 2000

- let ARET-1 run its course to 2000
- launch ARET-2; "graduate" successful companies
- continue ARET
 - ⇒ ratchet up targets post 2000
- evaluation to inform future targets/design
- add substances post 2000
 - ⇒ add CEPA toxic substances
 - ⇒ some sectors have targets post 2000 already
- multiple dates/targets for ≠ substances
- delete/reclassify substances
 - ⇒ a lot of work?
 - ⇒ new evidence?
 - ⇒ success achieved?
- bigger list helps encourage participation

6. NEW ISSUES

- ARET (recipe applies to other issues)
 - ⇒ voluntary
 - ⇒ reporting
 - ⇒ challenge
 - ⇒ stakeholder involvement
 - ⇒ monitoring
 - ⇒ emissions reduction
 - ⇒ "flagship" for volunteerism
- combination reduces transaction costs
- build on a known program
- need critical mass

BUT

- design program around issue and stakeholders +
- evaluate ARET first
- may be easier to combine reporting
- what issue?
 - ⇒ endocrine disrupters? (aka gender benders)
 - ⇒ particulates

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- meaning? community? ENGOs?
- ENGO return to stakeholder committee
- involvement in:
 - ⇒ steering committee
 - ⇒ verification
- local advisory committee:
 - ⇒ at plant level: encourage (labour relations issues)
 - ⇒ at national level: design (targets, substances)
- assure ENGOs that government will backstop
- ARET with regulations: prerequisite to getting ENGOs back to table
- ENGO concern VAs will replace regulations
- ENGO capacity constraints may limit participation; must choose where to put efforts
- public participation requires resources - industry to pay?

8. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

- regulatory threat is important to VA success
- VA can bridge jurisdictional barriers
- limited resources affect participation of provinces
- industry should pay for ARET because it benefits
- government does not have to be involved
- government needs to deliver its policy framework at ground level/through every interface with industry
- sharing of information; multistakeholder VA fosters dialogue
- ARET, as broad platform, could allow specific tailorings:
 - ⇒ target setting
 - ⇒ regulations: backstop - policy framework
 - ⇒ fallback: field-levelling
 - ⇒ international environmental agreements
 - ⇒ verification/data gathering
 - ⇒ fiscal measures
 - ⇒ anointment
 - ⇒ coordination/partnership builder, national clearing house for MOUs
 - ⇒ avoid duplication (federal-provincial, within federal)
 - ⇒ decider of last resort
 - ⇒ science

9. WEAKNESSES

- base year: too early, affects credibility
- level playing field - role of industry associations
- counting non-voluntary actions as voluntary
- inconsistent reporting
- lack of consequences when targets not met
- should address issues for ARET-2



