Classification Activity Group

Update for the CCL Work Group

Plenary Meeting

December 16-17, 2002

Classification Work Group Member Participants

- Laura Anderko
- Douglas Crawford Brown
- Michael Dourson
- Alan Elzerman
- Brian Ramaley
- Ken Reckhow
- Craig Stow
- Daniel Wartenberg
- EPA Staff and Consultants

Goal / Task / Issues to Address

GOAL

- Identify, evaluate, test, and make recommendations on a process to select contaminants from the PCCL for the CCL

INITIAL TASK

- Review, discuss, and select classification schemes for testing

ISSUES TO ADDRESS

- Substantive issues on the quality and nature of the data and what metrics to use (e.g., how to express severity)

- Statistical issues such as what method best deals with moving from the PCCL to the CCL.

Topics of Discussion-1

PROCESS

- What are the possible decision approaches and options?
- What are the criteria by which we decide on an option?
- What do we know about the options with respect to these criteria (characteristics, what they can do and cannot do, relative benefits of each, etc.)
- How well do the identified approaches meet these criteria?
- What additional information is needed for each system?
- When one or two preferred systems are identified, do they need to be tested to see if they perform the way we wish and to determine what level of data is required in order to be comfortable with the output?

Topics of Discussion -2

DATA

- The group should consider how data affect the selection of the classification system. In what form must data be for use in these systems? What are the best data we have and in which data are we most confident? How should data be summarized, abstracted, etc? This is a cross-over issue with the Universe Activity Group.

- There are some fundamental concerns regarding data quality, treatment of data gaps, and extrapolation between species and subpopulations. There are concerns that the toxicological data are specific to animals and adults and not available for many vulnerable populations (e.g., children, elderly, immuno-compromised). Does this affect the feasibility of using any particular option?

Materials Reviewed

- Classification Approaches for Priority Setting and Decision Making: A Selected Review of Prototype, Rule-based, and Expert Judgment Methods (file name: Classification CCLV3 10.10.02)

- Comparison of Classification Approaches (V1 – Matrix)

Findings / Decisions Reached / Drafts Prepared

- A matrix has been developed to help in the judging and selection of candidate decision systems.

- This matrix is being populated with specific candidate systems, sorted into the broad categories of options.

- An example application of the broad categories has been developed (and will be worked through here).

Next Steps

- Finalize matrix design (e.g., ensure list of characteristics relevant in choosing from amongst decision options is complete).

- Populate decision matrix by judging characteristics of each decision option.

- Apply decision matrix to decision options using sample data.

- Assess strengths and weaknesses of decision options using the completed matrix.