

Binational Toxics Strategy

PCBs

Workgroup Co-Chairs

Tony Martig, U.S. EPA

Ken De, Environment Canada

PCB Challenge Goals

Canada

- Seek a 90% reduction of high-level PCBs (>10,000 ppm) by 2000
- Accelerate destruction of stored high-level PCB wastes

United States

- Seek a 90% national reduction of high-level PCBs (>500 ppm) by 2006
- Ensure proper management and disposal of PCBs removed from use

Progress Toward the Challenge Goals

U.S.

- Lacking sufficient data to determine the status of progress.
 - ◆ EPA has committed to reassess the PCB equipment inventory in early 2005

Canada

- For high-level PCBs in storage, a 90% reduction is likely based on information available as of December 2004 (thus meeting the challenge of accelerated destruction)
- For PCBs that are still in service, it is unlikely that the 90% reduction target will be met
- Information continues to be gathered and assessed by EPA and EC to determine whether the challenge goals have been met in entirety

Management Assessment Update

■ Environmental Analysis

- ◆ Data on the presence of PCBs in multiple media in the Basin are widely available**
- ◆ Environmental levels have generally declined since the 1970s, but current trends are less clear**
- ◆ Criteria exceedances exist in some media and areas, including numerous fish advisories**
- ◆ Several data issues need evaluation before making final conclusions regarding trends and criteria (e.g., data quality and comparability issues)**

Management Assessment Update

- **Opportunity Assessment**
 - ◆ **Additional information on the relative contributions of all PCB sources and their respective pathways in the Great Lakes Basin is needed**

- **Management Outcomes**
 - ◆ **Continue active Level 1 status**
 - ◆ **Continue existing programs**
 - ◆ **Coordinate information gathering and assessment to prioritize sources and determine trends**