

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

Canadian Accomplishments

- In Ontario, as of April 2005, 89% of high-level PCBs in storage have been destroyed (about 2,741 tons remaining) since 1993.
 - ◆ In between April 2003 - April 2004, ~ 815 tonnes (gross weight) (1.8 million pounds) of high-level PCBs in storage were destroyed in Canada

- Approximately 70% reduction of high-level PCBs in service (about 3,000 tons remaining)

- 420 PCBs sites are remaining (both federal and non-federal), down from 1,529 in 1993
 - ◆ In between April 2003 - December 2004, ~ 135 storage sites (both federal and private) became PCB-free.

U.S. Accomplishments

- **About 110,000 PCB transformers and 166,000 large PCB capacitors were disposed of between the 1994 baseline and the end of 2003.**
- **At the end of 2003, an estimated 113,000 PCB transformers and 1,330,000 large PCB capacitors remained in use in the U.S.**
- **EPA expects the actual amount of PCB equipment remaining in use to be much less.**

Progress Toward the Challenge Goals

U.S.

- Lacking sufficient data to determine with accuracy the status of progress toward the goal.
- EPA is currently compiling PCB disposal information for 2004 and updating the PCB transformer registrations.

Canada

- For high-level PCBs in storage, the 90% reduction challenge goal has been met (as of December 2004 data).
- For high-level PCBs in-service, Canada is still working to meet its challenge goal of a 90% reduction.

Management Assessment Update

■ Environmental Analysis

- ◆ PCBs are monitored in fish, herring gull eggs, bivalves, water and sediments, air, food, and humans.**
- ◆ Environmental levels have generally declined since the 1970s, but current trends are less clear.**
- ◆ Criteria exceedances exist in some media and areas (water, sediment, fish tissue), and there are numerous fish consumption advisories for PCBs.**
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Remaining PCBs in service**
- ◆ Better define relative source contributions to the Great Lakes**

■ Management Outcomes

- ◆ Continue active Level 1 status**
- ◆ Continue existing programs, with periodic reassessment**
- ◆ Coordinate information gathering and assessment to prioritize sources and determine trends**