

Minutes

NAGPI Conference Call: Tuesday, 11 August 2004, 14:00–14:30 EST

1. Welcome to participants and roll call

Participants

Joke Aerts
Dana Arnold
Chantal Line Carpentier
Martha King
Rahumathulla Marikkar
Luz Aida Martinez
Roger Peniche Sala

Lou Pagano
Jacob Park
John Polak
Mary Ann Remolador
Julie Shannon
Jeff Stephens

2. Briefing Note to the Parties

None of the government officials had been contacted by their governments regarding the pending acceptance of NAGPI's proposal to work on three commodities.

Chantal Line explained why some government officials in the group were asked whether the procurement work fits within the SMOC program or in Environment, Economy and Trade. Chantal Line provided a small debrief about the restructuring and will add this as an item for the annual meeting agenda.

She will invite Vic Shantora and Luck Trip (in charge of SMOC) to join the group to have their point of view at the annual meeting. The SMOC's proposed activities related to procurement (annex 1) for your information.

After GSC (General Standing Committee) conference call on Sept, 12, the group may know more about the Council decision on green procurement.

3. Committee for Annual meeting proposed agenda

A proposed agenda received this morning from John Polack was sent to the group, for their comments. As it wasn't received by most of the group it will be sent again.

John Polack presented the agenda indicating that it was divided in two: a) what has been done so far; b) where we go from here. Comments and suggestions to change the agenda should be sent directly to Chantal Line.

Chantal Line reminded the group to send their registration form; we have received only two so far. Some members said they won't be able to attend this date, so it was

proposed to consider changing the meeting for Sept. 10, 16 or 27. The date must be determined ASAP for logistics and government travel authority purposes.

4. Next Meeting

No other conference call was proposed. Next meeting will be the Annual NAGPI meeting in Montreal.

Annex 1

From *Draft CEC SMOC Future Direction,, CEC Secretariat Draft 5 April 2004,*

Section 3.0 addresses building partnerships that can assist in North American efforts to prevent the risks posed by toxic chemicals to health and the environment

The SMOC Working Group proposes to:

- Examine opportunities to build stronger partnerships for sharing information, knowledge and experience.
- Identify barriers to and opportunities for sharing chemicals assessment information and methodologies and recommend actions.
- Work with the CEC Pollution Prevention initiative to identify chemical-intensive industrial sectors or companies operating in the three countries, and to identify and implement mechanisms to engage industry in pollution prevention practices. Emphasis will be placed on sectors that are sources of multi-pollutants that pose significant risks.
- **Share information and experience within the three countries and build governmental capacity to foster green procurement by the public sector.**
- Work with the CEC hazardous waste management initiative to share pertinent information.

Activities

5 Work with the CEC Pollution Prevention initiative to identify chemical intensive industrial sectors or companies operating in the three countries, and to identify and implement mechanisms to engage industry in improved pollution prevention practices for the sound management of chemicals applicable to the priorities held in the three countries. This work will build upon existing national programs (i.e., additive and coordinated rather than duplicative) towards the goal of preventing and reducing releases to the environment of toxic chemicals. Through this mechanism the SMOC Working Group will also seek to address sectors common to the three countries that are sources of multi-pollutants that pose significant risks to the environment and human health. Activities with industry will, as appropriate to the circumstances, focus on:

- **greening the supply chain by improving the knowledge of purchasers regarding toxic and hazardous chemicals in products and processes through activities such as development of and improved access to the most recent information on hazards associated with chemical compounds;**
- sustainable chemistry design and engineering processes (e.g., with respect to chemical screening and assessment methodologies, and technological processes, such as oxidation processes), together with identification of opportunities for improved information sharing on successful approaches and of data arising from these efforts;
- **life-cycle management policies and practices; extended producer responsibility) for the**

sound management of chemicals, including the highest standards in environmentally sound management (ESM) of chemicals as wastes. In this area, the SMOC Working Group will coordinate with the CEC Hazardous Waste Task Force; and

- encourage corporations to adopt their highest environmental standards of operation (i.e., processes, procedures and technologies applicable to toxic and hazardous chemicals) in all jurisdictions within which they operate;

5. Share information and experience within the three countries and build capacities within governments

to foster green procurement by the public sector, specifically regarding treatment of toxic and

hazardous chemicals in procured products and processes; and

6. Work with the hazardous waste management initiative of the CEC to share information on leading practices and techniques regarding the toxic and persistent substances of concern to the CEC SMOC Initiative.