



March 28, 2006

Subject: Invitation to the Sound Management of Chemicals Working Group Public Meeting, April 26, 2006

Dear Sir or Madam:

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is pleased to invite you to participate in the public/stakeholder meeting of the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) Working Group, to be held in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on Wednesday, April 26, 2006. Please find the provisional agenda attached.

In 2003, as the CEC approached its ten-year anniversary, Council mandated a review of programs and operations. As a result of the Ten-year Review and Assessment Committee (TRAC) report, Council issued the [Puebla Declaration](#) (June 2004), which includes a call for results-oriented strategic plans in three new priority areas—referred to as the “Puebla pillars”. This was a new vision for the work of the CEC, and thus the well established SMOC initiative. The Puebla priority areas are *Information for Decision-Making, Capacity Building, and Trade and Environment*.

The SMOC program, led by representatives of the three North American countries and implemented by a trilateral working group and the CEC, is seeking input to a new strategy for realizing the sound management of chemicals in North America. A document detailing this proposed approach will be posted on the CEC website (www.cec.org) for public review and comment from April 7, 2006 to end of business May 8, 2006. The document describes the role of the CEC Secretariat and stakeholders in SMOC activities; identifies SMOC WG results and performance indicators and describes its work under the three Puebla priority areas, including opportunities for horizontal integration with other work within the CEC; outlines how planned strategies for catalyzing cooperation might assist SMOC goals; and describes the future direction of the SMOC initiative.

At this public/stakeholder meeting, the Parties and the CEC will provide an outline of the proposed approach and will solicit comments from the public and other interested stakeholders regarding the approach. We will

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be seeking advice from stakeholders on attaining the goals of trilateral chemicals management under the SMOC program.

This meeting represents an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to provide input into the North American program, and you are being invited to participate because of your expertise and interest in this initiative. Enclosed please find the registration form, which we ask that you kindly fill out and return to CEC Meeting Services at your earliest convenience, and not later than April 3, 2006 for those seeking financial assistance (see below), and not later than April 19, 2006 for those not seeking financial assistance.

The CEC has limited funding available to assist with travel and accommodation expenses for a number of participants. If you would like to be considered for such support, please include a brief statement with your registration form indicating why you believe you may be eligible for assistance and how much funding you would require. Appropriate statements might describe: specialized interest in the topics covered, representation of a large interest sector or multiple groups who share an interest, or specialized expertise with the area/substance of concern. We will review all requests received by April 3, 2006, and advise you within one week of this date whether we are able to provide support for you. Any requests received after that date will be considered only if there are funds remaining.

If you are not able to join us, your comments on the paper would nevertheless be most welcome by end of business May 8, 2006 and can be forwarded to Erika Hercules at ehercules@cec.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Windsor. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Erika Hercules if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

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Encl.

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