



Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America

Comisión para la Cooperación Ambiental de América del Norte

Commission de coopération environnementale de l'Amérique du Nord

September 22, 2006

Subject: Invitation to the Annual Meeting of the Consultative Group for the North American PRTR Project, Nov. 28-30, 2006 – San Diego, California

Dear Colleague:

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is pleased to invite you to participate in the annual meeting of the Consultative Group for the North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) Project, to be held in San Diego, California from Tuesday through Thursday, 28-30 November 2006.

An important focus for this meeting will be to discuss the relevance of PRTRs and other chemical information with representatives from indigenous communities in North America. Beginning on Wednesday, 29 November, we will address issues of particular relevance to indigenous peoples. And on Thursday, 30 November, we will have discussions solely with stakeholders representing indigenous communities.

The meeting will highlight new developments in the PRTR programs of Canada, Mexico and the United States, as well as progress made on enhancing the CEC's *Taking Stock* report and website. It will also explore cross-border collaboration within industry sectors, and, in the tradition of this annual meeting, gather ideas for the special feature chapter in the *Taking Stock* report. Of particular relevance to indigenous communities across North America, this year's meeting will feature presentations and a panel discussion aimed at providing insight into the potential uses of PRTR data in indigenous communities.

For the past decade, the CEC has been working to facilitate the conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment through cooperation and public participation, in the context of increasing economic trade and social links between Canada, Mexico and the United States. The CEC places a high priority on promoting access to information, including data gathered through Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers—such as the U.S. Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), and Mexico's *Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes* (RETC). The CEC's annual *Taking Stock* report is a cornerstone of these efforts. More information about the CEC, including its PRTR project, can be found at <<http://www.cec.org>>.

Attached are the preliminary agenda and registration form for the meeting. We look forward to participants' attendance during all 3 days of the meeting, but understand that this might prove difficult for some; therefore, please note that Days 2 and 3 (Nov. 29-30) will focus more specifically on PRTR issues relating to indigenous communities. Additional information and a background document will be provided in advance of the event. Also, simultaneous translation between English and Spanish will be available. Please complete and return the registration form to the CEC's Meeting Services <meetingservices@cec.org> or by fax at: 1-514-350-4345 **by 27**

October 2006. Please note that we will be able to guarantee space only for those who have registered by that date.

To encourage the sharing of ideas, there will be table space available for participants wishing to display materials relating to the meeting's PRTR theme.

The CEC has limited funding available to assist with travel and accommodation expenses for a small number of participants who would not otherwise have the resources to attend. Only non-profit organizations and individuals from the three countries are eligible for funding. If you would like to be considered for such support, you must attach a 1-page statement with your registration form indicating why you believe you may be eligible for assistance and how much funding you would require (see the attached registration form for more details). We will review all requests received by **16 October 2006**, and inform you if we are able to offer you support. Requests received after October 16 will be considered only if there are remaining funds.

We look forward to seeing you in San Diego. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Marilou Nichols at (+1 514) 350-4341, or at <mnichols@cec.org>.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Chanon
Program Manager, Pollutants and Health

Signed on September 22, 2006

Attach.