



## **North American Working Group on the Sound Management of Chemicals**

### **SUMMARY of PUBLIC MEETING**

2 November 2001

Marriott University Hotel, Tucson, Arizona, USA

#### **1.0 Summary of Public Session**

##### **1.1 Public engagement/participation/capacity**

- Stakeholder suggestions included the following:
  - Improve the NARAP process by increasing public information, better educating Task Force members.
  - Ensure information is shared more broadly across borders
  - Seek vehicles for communications beyond the Web
  - Communicate in non-technical form to a variety of audiences (general public, youth, indigenous communities etc.)
  - Offer training forums for the public
  - Include a broader representation of non-governmental people on all task forces, including indigenous peoples.
  - Provide opportunities for the public to inform SMOC efforts
- SMOC meetings
  - Provide more details on specific national components of NARAPs (reporting)
  - Meetings could be used for outreach and public information, less emphasis on process for public sessions
  - Invite regional/local governments and ENGOs presenters re local efforts that pertain to SMOC work (e.g. PCB work locally)
  - Expand meetings via audio/closed circuit television, satellite, etc. Select region each time for focus of local efforts on that region.
  - Have presentations that demonstrate progress, less on process; select 2-3 for presentations for public/students. Not too technical.
  - Involve more young people (promote SMOC via environmental sciences departments)
  - Prepare video about SMOC, basic information (objectives 95-05; protocol used to prepare NARAPs etc.) Useful for schools; raise SMOC profile.

##### **1.2 Monitoring/access to data:**

The two issues were related in that the public specified types of monitoring it hopes to see undertaken via NARAPs and it requested access to data produced via inventories and with regard to “hotspots”.

Specifically, the following items were noted:

- Releases: The Mercury Mexican inventory and North American “hotspots” data should be made available to the public (which the SMOC later noted will be done once this data is finalized)
- Take monitoring actions to determine and report whether Environmental levels of NARAP substances are going down over time

**1.3 NARAPs**

- Prevention needs to be emphasized more, including in terms of environmentally benign alternatives to target chemicals and support for/use of new technologies
- Control technologies promoted for destruction should not create other hazardous wastes
- There should be a greater focus on eliminating the generation/dissemination of POPs
- Risks need to be better communicated to the public
- Remediation actions in NARAPs are required to follow up on hotspots
- Dedicated actions should be included in NARAPs for populations at high risk of exposure