



March 12, 2007

Subject: Invitation to the Sound Management of Chemicals Working Group  
Public Meeting, April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Please find the provisional agenda attached.

The SMOC Working Group will present for discussion, four proposed concept areas for future work based on the *Strategy to 2020 under the Puebla Priority Areas*. These concept areas will identify sound management of chemicals related issues of mutual concern and describe actions proposed under the CEC. In our renewed mandate, we are looking at programs to be managed tri-laterally under the CEC, bilaterally between governments, or undertaken collaboratively with stakeholders, including NGOs, industry and academia. We will also be considering how stakeholders can play an enhanced participatory role. SMOC will be seeking input regarding priorities that could feed directly into the concept areas towards meeting the goals of sound trilateral chemicals management under the CEC's SMOC program.

The four proposed concept areas are as follows:

1. *Reduce the risk from chemicals of concern to North America*; the objective of this area is to reduce and/or eliminate the risks from chemicals of concern to the people and environment of North America. This area will include chemical specific work such as the current implementation of the North American Regional Action Plans, and should include work on chemicals or groups of chemicals of emerging concern as determined by governments and/or stakeholders;
2. *Develop and implement a sustainable regional approach to monitoring, including biomonitoring*; this area will include work under the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Standing Committee with the objective to enhance North American monitoring capacity, with an emphasis on Mexico;
3. *Improve environmental performance of sectors*; the objective of this area is to reduce the risks from toxic chemicals in North America by working

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strategically with key industrial sectors. This area may include work on greening design and supply chains, pollution prevention and recycling in sectors of tri-lateral concern: and

4. *Establish a foundation for chemicals management in North America*; this area seeks to increase comparability of chemical management tools across North America, with a special emphasis on assisting Mexico to build their capacity in the sound management of chemicals at the national level. Work under this area may include increasing the comparability of chemical management protocols between the three countries (e.g. chemical inventories), and alignment with similar global initiatives.

Documents describing each proposed concept area and guiding principles for the selection of projects under the proposed concept areas will be found on the CEC website at <http://cec.org/calendar/details/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=2042> during the week of April 4th.

Time has been set aside in the agenda for stakeholders to make brief (15 minute) presentations on how a proposed project may be suited for integration into SMOC future work under one of the four new concept areas. For these presentations, we would ask that stakeholders please consider the guiding principles as outlined in the document *Guiding Principles for Selection of Work to be Considered under the Sound Management of Chemicals North American Agenda for Chemicals Management*, attached. There is limited time available for presentations and we respectfully ask that interested parties please register with the CEC Secretariat to ensure reservation of an available time slot.

This is an unparalleled opportunity for the public and stakeholders to provide input into the North American program and you are 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 March 30, 2007.

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; specialized expertise with the area/substance of concern. We will review all requests received by March 30, 2007, 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 proposed concept areas of work would nevertheless be most welcome by end of business May 23, 07. Please forward all correspondences to Erika Hercules at [ehercules@cec.org](mailto:ehercules@cec.org).

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

Yours sincerely,

Luke Trip  
Sound Management of Chemicals  
Program Manager

Encl.

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