

TOXICS STEERING GROUP (TSG) QUARTERLY MEETING
Tuesday, December 9, 2014
MEETING SUMMARY

Members in attendance:

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD):

Kay Fritz

Department of Community Health (DCH):

Christina Bush

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):

Shannon Briggs

Kristen Kellock

Bob Sills

Dennis Bush

Doreen Lehner

Eric Wildfang

Mike Depa

Deb MacKenzie-Taylor

Keisha Williams

Christine Flaga

Joy Taylor Morgan

Divinia Ries, Chairperson

Others Present:

Emily Weingartz, DEQ

Highlights:

TSG Subcommittees updates:

- a) 1,4-Dioxane Subcommittee: Chris indicated that she will convene the Subcommittee to review the Subcommittee report draft revised per feedback from TSG members and the Executive Office. The draft will be resent to all TSG members for review and approval by end of January. The report will cover only the evaluation of TERA's proposal for the mechanism of action for 1,4-dioxane carcinogenicity.
- b) PFCs Workgroup: Dennis reported that they have received the results of the PFOS study on fish.
- c) Children's Environmental Health Subcommittee: Deb reported that RRD has requested the TSG Subcommittee to address a Criteria Stakeholders Advisory Group (CSA) recommendation for DEQ to develop a process or methodologies for establishing criteria for hazardous substances with developmental-reproductive adverse effects. Currently, criteria for developmental and reproductive toxicants are established only for the direct contact (ingestion and dermal contact) pathway but not for the other pathways including drinking water, ambient air inhalation and vapor intrusion. The Subcommittee recommendations will be used by RRD in updating the Part 201 cleanup criteria for these types of hazardous substances.

Updates from DARD, DEQ, and DCH:

- a) Kay reported that she is looking at soil cleanup criteria for use in evaluating urban sites where livestock may be placed. New York's unrestricted land use criteria, which include the consumption of home-produced vegetables and animal products, incorporate an RSC of 0.2; however for PBTs, the RSC is lower. Detroit is currently framing an ordinance to allow livestock in the city. It is expected that the livestock will be mostly chickens, for meat and egg consumption, however larger animals such as goats will also be considered. Kay noted several concerns in using the Part 201 residential direct contact criteria for evaluating sites for livestock, such as the omission of the food chain exposure pathway, and some recent studies that suggested they may not be protective enough for lead and dioxins.

- b) Shannon shared more information on harmful algal blooms (HAB). Dennis reported that a microcystin criterion has not been derived at this time. WRD is waiting for EPA to release the HAB Assessment report. They are also currently working on the Part 5 Rules.
- c) Bob reported that the Part 2 rules revision process has started for the proposed air toxics rules changes. However, AQD is also awaiting feedback from EPA on other areas of the Part 2 rules. Bob and other AQD staff are participating in a U.S. EPA-AQD-UM-Wayne State public workshop on Detroit air quality issues on December 10th. Joy discussed a recent study by Dr. Lemke of Wayne State University about Detroit and Windsor air quality and asthma rates.
- d) Christina reported on DCH work regarding mercury contamination at a home where mercury was used to extract gold from jewelry. US EPA and the local health department are the lead regulatory and health agencies collaborating at the site.
- e) Emily indicated that she had a meeting with Bob, Dennis, Deb and Chris on library matters. She is securing a price quote from Sci-finder and will evaluate whether it is more user friendly than CAS search. An advantage for using CAS search is the consistent use of CAS numbers unlike PubMed.

2015 TSG Chair:

The group elected Chris Flaga as the incoming TSG chairperson for 2015.

Others:

- a) Deb presented a proposal for a toxicology/risk assessment-focused training for state toxicologists similar to what state geologists have. The training could bring in experts from outside the state and could take for a whole day or two. She will ask state geologist for more information and explore the feasibility of doing this with Jim Sygo.
- b) Some TSG members (Christina, Eric, Chris, Mike, Doreen, Keisha and Divinia) took the Brown Bag Lab tour at the Michigan State University's Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health. The members were shown the facilities, capabilities and state of the art equipment at the Center.
- c) Keisha announced that the next PBPK class on December 12 will be on Exercise 4: How to Build a PBPK Model).