

PBT Reduction Drafting Team Call Summary
January 25, 2005

Attendees: Melissa Hulting, Beth Murphy, Jackie Fisher, Susan Boehme, Joe DePinto, Dale Phenicie, Matt Hudson, Laura Rauwerda, Sue Brauer, Brian Hughes, Mike Murray, Debra Jacobson, Ted Smith

The PBT Drafting Team (hereafter Team) is currently comprised of twenty PBT Reduction Strategy Team members (Attachment A). The Team will hold biweekly calls on Tuesdays, beginning January 25, at 10:30am central time, for no more than 90 minutes.

The Team discussed a draft PBT Strategy Problem Statement which had been previously circulated by Ted Smith. Questions arose as to what to call non-priority (i.e., “level 1”) pollutants (e.g., PDBEs, PFOS, pharmaceuticals). The Team agreed to call this category of chemicals, “chemicals of emerging concern”. Questions also arose regarding whether the purview of the Team was limited to substances that fall within a strict definition of persistence, bioaccumulation, and toxicity, inclusive of each. The Team agreed that the purview is not so confined but that the priority is to address substances that exhibit “PBT-like” behavior (e.g., substances that may “pseudo-persist in the environment due to steady and consistent discharge.) Joe DePinto suggested that substances that exhibit P or B or T properties should be considered. Substances such as volatile organic compounds (e.g., trichloroethylene) fall outside the purview of the PBT Reduction Strategy.

Several Team members had submitted comments on the original draft problem statement and there was some confusion as to which draft was the current working draft. The Team decided to comment on Sue Brauer’s edited draft (Attachment B), by February 1, after which Ted Smith will consolidate a draft final version for approval at the next call.

The Team next discussed goals and objectives of the PBT Reduction Strategy. There was general agreement that the overall goal should be to reduce and eliminate “chemical impairments” to Great Lakes ecosystem health, including both humans and wildlife. There was much discussion regarding other more specific goals such as the elimination of fish consumption advisories, meeting discharge standards set forth in the GLI, and generally reducing sources of PBTs to the Great Lakes basin. There were questions regarding international sources and whether those could be targeted in the PBT Reduction Strategy. The Team agreed that any sources that impact the Great Lakes, including international sources, should be considered by the PBT Reduction Strategy Team. Susan Boehme suggested that there should be some tangible short term goals as well long term goals. Susan agreed to draft a straw goals and objectives proposal for the Drafting Team’s review and comment, and for further discussions at the next Drafting Team call.

The Team next discussed a proposed agenda for the Maumee Bay State Park Retreat, February 22, 23, 2005 (Attachment C below). The Team agreed to a general format in which the opening session would consist of a presentation of each of the ongoing general PBT program areas listed in section III of the organizing concepts, in order to bring the

full PBT Reduction Team up to a general level of knowledge about PBT program activities. The PBT Reduction Team will then discuss the pros and cons of the current programs in the context of the goals and objectives of the PBT Reduction Strategy, first for current priority pollutants and then for chemical of emerging concern,.

The Team agreed to prepare “white papers” on each of these topic areas, which will be posted via the website by February 16, for the consideration of the full PBT Reduction Team. White paper assignments are as follow:

Regulatory Programs – Sue Brauer, Debra Jacobson
Pollution Prevention/Voluntary Programs – Laura Rauwerda, Susan Boehme
Existing Great Lakes PBT Programs – Carrie Lohse-Hanson
Cleanup and Remediation - TBD
Education and Outreach – Jackie Fisher, Beth Murphy
Chemical Screening Programs – Ted Smith, Dale Phenicie
Toxicology Research (Human Health and Ecological) – Matt Hudson
Monitoring and Surveillance – Melissa Hulting
Modeling, Forecasting and Risk Assessment – Joe DePinto
Indicators – Jon Dettling

Drafts white papers will be circulated to the Drafting Team prior to the next call which will be held on February 8 at 10:30am. The meeting adjourned.

Attachment A

GLRC PBT Reduction Strategy Drafting Team

Susan	Boehme	New York Academy of Sciences
Sue	Brauer	U.S. EPA, Region 5, Lake Michigan LaMP
Timothy	Brown	Delta Institute
Michael	Cashin	Minnesota Power
Rita	Cestarc	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
David	De Vault	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Joseph	DePinto	Limno-Tech, Inc.
Jon	Dettling	Great Lakes Commission USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office
Jackie	Fisher	Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
Matt	Hudson	Michigan Department of Agriculture
Brian	Hughes	US EPA-GLNPO
Melissa	Hulting	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Debra	Jacobson	National Wildlife Federation
Zoe	Lipman	
	Lohse-	
Carrie	Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Elizabeth	Murphy	EPA-GLNPO
Michael	Murray	National Wildlife Federation
Dale K	Phenicie	Environmental Affairs Consulting
Laura	Rauwerda	Michigan DEQ
Ted	Smith	EPA-GLNPO

Attachment B

Draft PBT Problem Statement

I. Impacts

A. Historical PBTs

The concentrations of monitored persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals (PBTs) in Great Lakes fish have declined significantly following a ban on most PCB manufacturing uses and canceling or suspension of some particularly harmful pesticides. This is attributed to reduced use, release, and ambient levels. Nonetheless, concentrations of PCBs, some canceled pesticides, and mercury still necessitate the preparation of fish consumption advisories. This threatens the food supply and culture of indigenous and subsistence fishers as well as the sport and commercial fishing industry, regardless of whether native or stocked fish are harvested.

B. Emerging Chemicals

Researchers have documented the presence of additional persistent and bioaccumulative contaminants in fish and human tissue at concentrations comparable to the monitored PBTs. In addition, national and regional reconnaissance studies have documented the presence of chemicals we use daily in the ambient environment. Chemicals identified through these studies include surfactants, flame retardents, pesticides going through re-registration under the authority of the Food Quality and Protection Act, pharmaceuticals, natural and synthetic hormones, combustion by-products, and so on. The acute and chronic toxicities through direct exposure to these substances may be known, but their source and fate, food web, bioaccumulation factor, and toxicity in terms of teratogenicity and impaired reproduction typically is not known.

II. Sources and Pathways

PBTs enter the Great Lakes ecosystem from primarily human activity sources. PBTs don't recognize geopolitical boundaries while transported as gases or attached to particles in the air, over the ground and into streams, and through groundwater. They eventually become incorporated into the food web due to their persistence.

III. The Status Quo

What we know of PBTs is limited by our monitoring programs and the initiative of researchers. We don't implement a so-called precautionary principle to prevent materials from entering commerce except through the Toxic Substances Control Act's premanufacturing notice and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. These programs are limited by the available toxicological tools, which don't include standardized endocrine disruption tests because these test protocols are still in development.

Attachment C

Draft PBT Reduction Strategy Team Retreat Agenda
Maumee Bay State Park, Ohio
February 22, 23, 2005

February 22, 2005

1:00pm Introductions and Overview of Retreat Agenda

1:15pm – 3:45pm Overview of Ongoing PBT Activities

Regulatory Programs

Pollution Prevention/Voluntary Programs

Existing Great Lakes PBT Programs

Cleanup and Remediation

Education and Outreach

Assessment

Chemical Screening Programs

Toxicology Research (Human Health and Ecological)

Monitoring and Surveillance

Modeling, Forecasting and Risk Assessment

Indicators

Purpose/Objective: Bring Full PBT Team Up to speed on ongoing activities. Set the stage for brain-storming sessions to evaluate Status Quo.

4:00pm – 9:00pm Program Review - Priority Pollutants (including OC Pesticides)

Purpose/Objective: Discuss Pros and Cons of Status Quo, gap analysis, Needs, Discuss New Ideas to fill gaps.

February 23, 2005

8:00am - 9:30am Program Review – Priority Pollutants (cont.)

10:00am – 3:00pm Emerging Chemicals (or other chemicals, or Chemicals of emerging concern)

Purpose/Objective: Discuss Pros and Cons of Status Quo, gap analysis, Needs, Discuss New Ideas to fill gaps.