

**PBT Reduction Strategy Team Conference Call Summary**  
**February 2, 2005, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Central Time**

*Approximately 50 conference lines participated in the call.*

**Introduction – Review the Agenda**

Gary Gulezian opened the call with a brief welcome and review of the agenda.

**Updates to Work Plan, Draft Organizing Concepts, Matrix and Inventory of Documents**

Ted Smith provided an update on changes made to various documents. Dates were added to the draft work plan. Jim Zorn noted that the tight timeline was imposed by the commitment to prepare a final report in one year's time, or by December 2005. Jim also noted that the first summit in July was scheduled to allow for Congressional members to attend while Congress is not in session.

The following changes were made to version 3 of the draft final organizing concepts: added examples of pollution prevention and voluntary programs; added Great Lakes PBT programs (e.g., LaMPs, RAPs). Rob Simon highlighted additional comments that the American Chemistry Council (ACC) submitted. The ACC questioned the rationale for selecting specific substances and broad categories of substances as the focus of the PBT Reduction Strategy Team. Another concern was that limited resources would be directed away from the priorities for the Great Lakes. Rob also suggested that the PBT Activities matrix needs to be significantly expanded, for example to incorporate information on other regulatory programs and agencies. Rob's specific changes to the organizing concepts will be posted on the website or otherwise distributed to the team.

Ted explained that the rationale for selecting specific substances is not restricted to the definition of PBT, but agreed that work is needed to establish the criteria by which substances are selected. Ted stated that there are two broad categories of substances: priority pollutants of existing concern and chemicals of emerging concern. Ted invited comments for improving the draft matrix.

There was some debate over whether the second category (emerging substances) would put this regional effort ahead of efforts at the national level, and whether this presented a problem. Team members suggested that the team be proactive with respect to new chemicals and not be limited by work at the national level.

There was a question on the scope of the team's activity and whether it involved action on specific chemicals. This detail will be discussed and determined in the team's ongoing work. The team will rely on available information to determine appropriate recommendations for substances. It was suggested that it is within the scope of the team to identify chemicals of emerging concern.

Ted Smith provided an update on changes to the website for the PBT Reduction Strategy list of documents Team. Ted noted that, as suggested, documents on the website have been grouped for clarification.

### **PBT Website Updates**

The Great Lakes P2 Roundtable has created a listserv for members of the PBT Reduction Strategy Team. Team members may have received a listserv email from “listman.” Anyone wishing to join the listserv should send an email to Ted Smith at [smith.edwin@epa.gov](mailto:smith.edwin@epa.gov).

Kevin Yam of the Great Lakes Commission described information posted on the website: documents, notices of upcoming conference calls, summaries of previous calls, and links to external resources. He noted that the website was set up as a communication mechanism and to share documents. Any comments on the website are welcome. The PBT Reduction Strategy Team website can be found at: <http://www.glin.net/pbtstrategyteam/index.php>

### **Maumee Bay Retreat/PBT Drafting Team Call and Assignments**

Ted Smith explained that the drafting team decided to produce a series of white papers to encourage a more productive meeting at Maumee Bay. The white papers describe the ongoing PBT-related activities listed in the draft organizing concepts. Ted described the agenda for the retreat: the first part will be an overview of ongoing PBT activities, followed by breakout sessions to look at the pros and cons of current programs in the context of goals and objectives for the PBT Reduction Strategy. An overarching problem statement and goals and objectives are being developed; these will be posted to the website prior to February 16. There will be an opportunity for team members not in attendance to call in at 11:00 AM eastern standard time<sup>1</sup> on February 23. The website or listserv may be used to coordinate travel arrangements among team members (e.g., ride sharing). A facilitator and note taker will be provided for the meeting. Those who cannot attend should submit comments on the white papers prior to February 22.

Minutes of the last drafting team call are posted on the website. The next drafting team call will be on Tuesday, February 8. Additional members are welcome to join the drafting team.

### **Other Business**

The drafting team will finish preparing the white papers by next Tuesday and post them to the website.

The drafting team will address the concern raised on the present call concerning categories of chemicals and try to post a paper to the website.

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<sup>1</sup> Note this has been changed to 2:00pm eastern standard time.

Ted Smith will distribute the ACC's comments, which Rob Simon summarized in the present call.

Comments on all documents are still being accepted.

Interactive capabilities for the website are being developed.

The next conference call of the PBT Reduction Strategy Team will be February 16.

A Strategy Team Retreat will be held on February 22 and 23 at Maumee State Park.

The March 2 conference call is cancelled due to other activities scheduled in association with Great Lakes day in Washington, D.C.