



# 5.0 INTEGRATION WORKGROUP

## Integration Workgroup Highlights 2004

### Management Framework

The Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy identifies specific reduction challenges or goals for each Level 1 substance for the U.S. and Canada. The time frame for achieving the Strategy's challenge goals expires in 2006. As 2006 approaches, an analysis of progress and determination of the next steps is needed to respond to the mandate set forth in the Strategy. To accomplish this, in 2002, the Integration Workgroup began to develop a process or framework that is both transparent to stakeholders and consistent for all Level 1 substances. After a number of iterations with the involvement of GLBTS stakeholders, Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) representatives, environmental and health monitoring managers, and GLBTS workgroup co-chairs and program coordinators, the result is the General Framework to Assess Management of GLBTS Level 1 Substances. The framework is a flow diagram that provides a tool to guide the Parties (Environment Canada and US EPA) and stakeholders in evaluating progress and the need for further action by the GLBTS on Level 1 substances. Details on the background and objectives of the framework, as well as the framework itself, are provided in Appendix B.

As part of the process to develop the General Framework to Assess Management of GLBTS Level 1 Substances, a workshop was held in Chicago on April 14-15, 2004, with representatives from EC, US EPA, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The framework is comprised of two main parts: an environmental analysis and a GLBTS management assessment. The involvement of monitoring program managers and Lakewide Management Plan representatives was sought to assist in implementing the environmental analysis part of the framework.

At the June 18, 2004 Integration Workgroup meeting, the workgroup agreed to commence pilot assessments for OCS and dioxins/furans, using the general framework, by the end of 2004. Drafts of the OCS and dioxin/furan assessments were presented at the October 7, 2004, Integration Workgroup meeting.

Brief summaries of the Integration Workgroup meetings held over the past year are presented below.

### Integration Workgroup Meeting – June 18, 2004, Toronto

The first Integration Workgroup meeting was held on June 18, and focused on the development of the General Framework to Assess Management of GLBTS Level 1 Substances. The history of the development of the framework was described, beginning in 2002 and ending with changes made as a result of the April 2004 workshop with environmental and health monitoring managers, LaMP representatives, and GLBTS workgroup co-chairs and program co-ordinators. The following timetable for implementing the framework using a pilot approach was presented: complete a draft for OCS by September 2004, a draft for dioxins/furans by December 2004, and drafts for the other Level 1 substances by February 2005. Finally, a panel of experts presented their views on the potential impact on the GLBTS of substances designated as toxic under CEPA.

Presentations at this meeting included:

- Framework to Assess Management of GLBTS Level 1 Substances – An update – Alan Waffle, EC
- Next Steps for Framework Implementation – Ted Smith, US EPA
- Potential Impact of Designated CEPA Toxics on the GLBTS – Panel Discussion – Moderated by Allan Jones
  - Existing Substances Program – Janet Beauvais, Director, Risk Assessment Directorate, EC
  - CEPA Assessment for Human Health for Existing Substances The Path to 2006 & Beyond – Bette Meek, Manager, Environmental Substances Division, Health Canada
  - Possible Future Linkages Between CEPA and the GLBTS – Jim Smith, Manager, Integrated Programs Division, EC

### Integration Workgroup Meeting – October 7, 2004, Toronto

The second Integration Workgroup meeting was held in conjunction with the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) in Toronto on October 7. The focus of this meeting was the pilot assessments for OCS and dioxins/furans that were prepared using the General Framework to Assess Management of GLBTS Level 1 Substances. In addition, EC presented a proposed format for Internet access of environmental quality trends of GLBTS substances.



Presentations at this meeting included:

- Substance Pilot Updates - General Framework to Assess Management of GLBTS Level 1 Substances
  - OCS – Frank Anscombe, US EPA
  - Dioxins/Furans – Anita Wong, EC
- Application of the General Framework to All Remaining GLBTS Level 1 Substances: Timeline – Alan Waffle, EC
- Substance Profiles – Scott Painter, EC

### **Integration Workgroup Meeting – December 1, 2004, Chicago**

The final meeting of the year for the Integration Workgroup was held in Chicago on December 1, 2004. This meeting focused on completing the pilot GLBTS management assessments for OCS and dioxins/furans.

Presentations at this meeting included:

- Substance Pilot Updates - General Framework to Assess Management of GLBTS Level 1 Substances
  - OCS – Tom Tseng, EC
  - Dioxins/Furans – Anita Wong, EC
- SOLEC - Chemical Integrity Workshop – Dale Phenicie, CGLI
- International Toxics Reduction Efforts – Engaging GLBTS Stakeholders – Luke Trip, CEC SMOC and Angela Bandemehr, US EPA Office of International Affairs

### **Outlook for 2005**

In 2005, the Integration Workgroup will work to complete GLBTS management assessments for all Level 1 substances and to outline next steps for 2006 and beyond.

## **Stakeholder Forum Highlights 2004**

### **Stakeholder Forum**

A GLBTS Stakeholder Forum is convened biannually with the purpose of highlighting issues and initiatives of relevance to the Strategy. In response to comments from stakeholders, the format of the Stakeholder Forum was changed in 2004 by shortening the plenary session to allow more time for the workgroups to meet. The following GLBTS Stakeholder Forum meetings were convened in 2004:

- June 17, 2004, Toronto, and
- November 30, 2004, Chicago.

### **Stakeholder Forum Meeting – June 17, 2004, Toronto**

Robert Telewiak, Vice President of Environment, Health and Safety at Noranda, Inc. / Falconbridge, Ltd., provided the keynote address. Mr. Telewiak described the

environmental performance at Noranda/Falconbridge, giving an overview of the company, its emission reductions of various GLBTS substances, recycling efforts, and some thoughts on virtual elimination and the path forward. As part of the PCB Workgroup's PCB Reduction Recognition Program, Ken De (EC) presented awards to Ken McWhirter of the City of Thunder Bay, and Scott Cox of Canadian Niagara Power. The PCB Reduction Recognition Program recognizes organizations that have reduced high-level PCBs and have voluntarily met or exceeded the GLBTS challenge goal.

Workgroup co-chairs from each of the active substance workgroups (mercury, PCBs, dioxins/furans, and HCB/B(a)P) presented information on the status of the GLBTS with respect to the challenge goals. Following the report of progress on the dioxins/furans challenge, Anita Wong (EC) and Erin Newman (US EPA) presented an award to Bruce Gillies (EC) for his ongoing efforts and dedication as chair of the Burn Barrel Subgroup of the Dioxins/Furans Workgroup. The plenary session was followed by workgroup break-out sessions for mercury, PCBs, dioxins/furans, and HCB/B(a)P.

### **Stakeholder Forum – November 30, 2004, Chicago**

The second Stakeholder Forum meeting of 2004 featured a keynote address by Dr. Dan Meyer of the American Dental Association on Best Management Practices for dental amalgam. The workgroup leaders also reported on progress toward the strategy challenges for mercury, dioxins/furans, PCBs, HCB/B(a)P, and OCS. The forum was followed by substance workgroup break-out sessions for mercury, PCBs, dioxins/furans, and HCB/B(a)P.