

Stakeholder Process for Proposing Chemicals for Consideration as Candidate Chemicals of Mutual Concern under Annex 3 of the *Canada – United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*

1. INTRODUCTION

Stakeholders have expressed an interest in proposing specific chemicals for consideration as candidate Chemicals of Mutual Concern (CMCs) under Annex 3 of the *Canada - United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* (GLWQA).

Under Annex 3 – Chemicals of Mutual Concern (the Annex), it is the responsibility of the Parties to nominate substances for review and evaluation for potential designation as a CMC. As a means to foster enhanced GLWQA stakeholder engagement, the Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) Co-chairs have agreed to introduce a process by which stakeholders in Canada and U.S.¹ may formally propose specific chemicals, which could then be considered under the Process for Recommending CMCs in the Great Lakes to the Parties.

This document outlines the process for the development, submission and treatment of such proposals.

2. APPLICATION

This process is applicable to the following stakeholders in Canada or the U.S.:

- environmental and human health non-governmental organizations;
- industry;
- academia; and
- members of the general public.

3. PROPOSAL PROCESS

All stakeholder chemical proposals must be formally submitted to the GLEC Co-chairs. The GLEC Secretariat will subsequently forward each proposal, to the two Annex Co-leads. The Annex Co-leads will consider each proposal, taking into consideration available scientific information as well as domestic processes, priorities and resources under their respective national chemicals management programs, and will determine whether they can, respectively, support its inclusion as part of their domestic set of proposed chemicals for consideration by the Annex Sub-committee.

¹ “Stakeholder(s)” in this document refers to those specified in Section 2.

If either or both Annex Co-leads retain a chemical proposal through this mechanism, it will proceed to the Annex Sub-committee for consideration. The information provided in a chemical proposal may be supplemented with additional information by the supporting Annex Co-lead(s), if considered appropriate.

4. CONTENTS OF A PROPOSAL

Stakeholder chemical proposals must be accompanied by a supporting rationale that outlines the justification for the proposal. This supporting rationale should be based on currently available data or other information including, but not necessarily be limited to, the following (with associated references):

- Data and/or information indicating presence in the Great Lakes;
- Data and/or information indicating a potential ecological or human health threat in the Great Lakes;
- Information regarding the present and historical uses and releases in the Great Lakes;
- Government and/or non-government assessments, reports, reviews and/or other regulatory conclusions;
- Existing water and other environmental quality standards, criteria or guidelines;
- Past and present government and non-government risk management activities; and
- Any other relevant information with regards to the proposed chemical.

5. TIMELINES

Stakeholder chemical proposals will be accepted at any time throughout the year and will be given consideration in accordance with the Annex workplan.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND STATUS OF A PROPOSAL

A proponent who submits a chemical proposal will be provided with an acknowledgement of receipt from the GLEC Secretariat, on behalf of GLEC Co-chairs, along with an indication of when their proposal will likely be given consideration under the Annex.

Once the Annex Co-leads have rendered their respective decisions as to whether the proposed chemical should be given further consideration by the Annex Sub-committee, the GLEC co-chairs, through the GLEC Secretariat, will notify each proponent of the decision.

Stakeholders who submit chemical proposals that are not accepted for further consideration by the Annex Sub-committee as candidate CMCs by either of the Parties will be provided with the reasons why their respective proposal was not retained. Reasons for non-acceptance could include but are not limited to:

- the proposal is considered to fall outside of the scope of the Annex;
- the supporting rationale for the proposal is considered incomplete; or
- there is insufficient information at this time to reach a determination regarding the proposal.

In cases where non-acceptance of a proposed chemical is due to incomplete or insufficient information, as provided in the supporting rationale, the GLEC Secretariat will invite the respective stakeholder to provide the necessary supplementary information, when available, in the form of a revised proposal for reconsideration by the Parties, in accordance with the Annex workplan.

Chemicals that are accepted for further consideration by the Annex Sub-committee will be evaluated as per Annex 3 processes.

7. DETAILS REGARDING THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Chemical proposals should be submitted electronically to the GLEC Secretariat at either of the following e-mail addresses:

glwqa-aqegl@ec.gc.ca

GLWQA@glnpn.net