

New Substances Program

International Activities Inventory

updated September 2006

Please Note – the term “declassification” is an OECD term for publication of OECD documents for general use.

International Organization / Agreement	Current Involvement	Participants (Sections)	Frequency/ Timing of Meetings/ Conference calls	Benefits to Canada	Activities/Results Fiscal Year 05-06	Future Activities Fiscal Year 06/07
<i>Chemicals and Polymers – Canada participates in the international activities which aid in the continued improvement of the assessment and management of new chemicals</i>						
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee	Director, New Substances Division, Environment Canada	Joint Meeting – every 9 months	Regular reports of OECD developments related to chemical management	Attendance to Joint Meetings: ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On-going
	New Chemicals Task Force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Item A: Implementation of the Parallel Process 	Manager/Head Evaluations Section, New Substances, Environment Canada (Canada is Co-Chair of the Work Item A Steering Group)	Meetings as required, regular updates via email and conference calls	Increasing consistency and sharing workload and expertise between jurisdictions when evaluating and/or conducting hazard/risk assessments	Ongoing work – Canada participated in all New Chemicals Task Force and Steering Group meetings for Work Items A,B and C. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of Parallel Process Pilot (Work Item A) • NCTF Meeting (April 14-15, 2005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Joint Meeting following two year Pilot project.

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Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Group Meeting (November 7-9, 2005) • Declassification of the “MAN (Mutual Acceptance of Notifications) Parallel Process – Pilot Phase” document 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Item B: working definitions – notifications process-two year pilot 	Manager/Head Notifications Client Services Section, New Substances, Environment Canada	-	Meetings as required, regular updates via email and conference calls	OECD participating countries to eventually use similar definitions for various technical terms and notification process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons Learned Questionnaires developed for Notifiers and Governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance document on articles • Final Report on “working definitions” by June 2007 • Workshop for polymers of reduced regulatory concern
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Item C: Electronic Template for notifications 	Manager/Head Notifications Section New Substances Division, Environment Canada	-	Meetings as required, regular updates via email and conference	Long term benefits – use of electronic templates in all participating OECD countries	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft documents on “working definitions” • Ongoing work to

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			calls		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prototype of electronic notification template based on the Canadian Notification Form 	complete fields in the template
	Environmental Exposure Assessment Task Force (EEATF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Emission Scenario Documents (ESD) for estimating substance releases to the environment ▪ Multimedia Modeling Expert Group - Determining the environmental persistence and long range transport of substances using models. 	Existing Substances Division (ESD), Environment Canada is current member of EEATF. New Substance Division, Environment Canada is current member of multimedia modeling expert group (reports to EEATF) and supports ESD in EEATF meetings.	Annual Meeting and teleconference calls.	Improved characterization of new substances emissions and environmental fate Global development of exposure and fate tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OECD Declassification of specific emission scenarios ▪ OECD/UNEP multimedia modeling workshop organized by New Substances Division May 31- June 3, 2006 ▪ Declassification of OECD multimedia model for Long Range Transport of Pollutants (LRTP) ▪ Declassification of technical publications related to LRTP and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of priority emission scenarios and multimedia modeling tools as needed ▪ Declassification of OECD Screening tool for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Summer 2006

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					persistence	
	OECD Steering Group and OECD Ad Hoc Group on Quantitative Structure Activity Relationships (Q)SARs	Head/Staff, New Substances Evaluation Section, Environment Canada	Annual Meeting (shared attendance with Existing Substances Division and Health Canada)	Independent validation of QSARs by the OECD and the development of “best practices” for QSARs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a Guidance Document on (Q)SAR validation, which is intended to be used in conjunction with, and explain and illustrate the application of, the OECD Principles for validation for regulatory purposes (Draft 2006) • Development of a document on the current status of regulatory use and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued sharing of QSAR model and data with member countries to ensure consistent and cooperative development of QSAR models for assessment internationally • Member state review of OECD “ToolBox” • Application Toolbox Pilot in 2006/07

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					<p>application of (Q)SAR models in member countries, which will assist in the identification and use of (Q)SAR models in regulation. Potential declassification 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently under development ; a (Q)SAR Application “Toolbox” to assist member countries to use (Q)SARmodels to assist regulatory application and decision-making 	
Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI)/ Society of Environmental	Global Advisory Group(s) on Bioaccumulation	Staff, New Substances Evaluation Section, Environment Canada. New Substances Evaluation Section staff is co-chair of the Advisory Group.	Bi-annual meetings/SETAC conferences, teleconferences as needed	Improvement and international acceptance of methods for bioaccumulation and food chain modelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 scientific workshops held between April 2005 and April 2006 ▪ Several scientific publications in various journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU workshop with ECB staff involved in RIPs related to bioaccumulation (May 2006) ▪ Bioaccumulation Intelligent Testing

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Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training and information sharing on data and models with European Chemicals Bureau and other stakeholders ▪ Developed an Intelligent Testing Strategy to bioaccumulation assessment for global review 	Strategy to be utilized by stakeholders globally
International Arrangements						
Canada/Australia Arrangement	<p>Sharing Information on New Chemicals.</p> <p>Scope includes increasing cooperation and bettering scientific and regulatory understanding (e.g.</p>	Heads and Staff of the New Substances Program (Environment Canada and Health Canada) and the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	Teleconferences held as required	Arrangement is in keeping with wider OECD efforts aimed at enhancing information and work sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian industry saves up to 40% of Australian fee's (as part of the Foreign Scheme rebates) • Australia currently uses New Substances Notification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities are described in the Work-plan under the Canada/Australia Arrangement.

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	hazard assessments) between the two governments with the potential to save resources in both jurisdictions.	(NICNAS) of Australia			Regulation (NSNR) assessment reports in their decision making	
Other International Activities						
Informal work with - Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)	EU Working Group on QSARs	Staff, New Substances Evaluation Section are invited experts of the EU Working Group on QSARs	Annual Meetings/ teleconference calls as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-development of electronic tools for substance assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater harmonization of assessment tools with EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in two EU Working Group on QSARs Expert Group Meetings; presented Canadian approaches to QSAR use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provided training to European Chemicals Bureau staff and member states on Canadian bioaccumulation QSARs; received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue scientific expertise and data exchange for QSAR development • External expert review of Intelligent Test Strategies (ITSs) being developed under the REACH Implementation Projects s related to bioaccumulation and persistence

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	----- OSIRIS (Advisory Group on Intelligent Testing Strategies for REACH)	----- Staff, New Substances Evaluation Section, Environment Canada is a member of the OSIRIS Advisory Group	----- Annual Meetings/ teleconference calls as needed	----- Intelligent Testing strategies development	training on EU QSARs ▪ Research and data exchange for bioaccumulation QSAR development and validation ----- New group - TBD	----- New group - TBD

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<i>Biotechnology:</i> Canada participates in the international activities which aid in the continued improvement of the assessment and management of animate products of biotechnology						
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	Working Group on Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology (HROB)	Head, New Substances Biotechnology Section	Every 9 months	The meeting of the Working Group on HROB is primarily a biotechnology regulatory forum at the OECD with emphasis on environmental and agricultural aspects. The meeting incorporates meetings of three subworking groups: plants, micro-organisms, and Biotrack Online (web-based database of environmental releases).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group meeting October 2005 on genetically modified salmon. • Participated in a Working Group meeting October 2005 and were major contributors to a consensus document on Acidithiobacillus. • Drafted document on Acinetobacter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acidithiobacillus document declassified in 2006. • Continued work on document for Acinetobacter.

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Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (under the Convention on Biological Diversity)	Environment Canada developed implementing regulations in 2002 and published them in Canada Gazette Part 1	Head, New Substances Biotechnology Section	Periodic interdepartmental working group meetings	Environment Canada to further develop an implementation plan in should Canada ratify the Protocol. Preparation of Canadian positions on articles for Meetings of the Parties (MOP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in the development of a Canadian position paper on risk assessment and management of Living Modified Organisms for Meeting of the Parties (Third meeting) (MOP3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working with interdepartmental partners on a Canadian position on ratification of the Protocol.
Other International Activities						
North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)	Development of standards for the use of transgenic arthropods for control of plant pests in North America	Staff, New Substances Biotechnology Section	Periodic; participation with representatives from US and Mexico	NAPPO countries are in different states of preparedness of the importation, containment, transportation and field release of transgenic arthropods. Canada will benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed draft NAPPO standard on importation, containment, transportation and release of transgenic arthropods for the minimization of plant health risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be Determined

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				by the development of NAPPO standard on transgenic arthropods that will consider pest risk, environmental risk and other national requirements		
North American Biotech Initiative (NABI)	Coordination of North American biotech regulatory activities	Director General , Science and Risk Assessment Directorate, Director, New Substances Division	Every 9 months	Information sharing on biotechnology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built communication channels with Mexican and United States of America counterparts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain feedback on the <i>New Substances Notification Regulations</i> (Organisms) review