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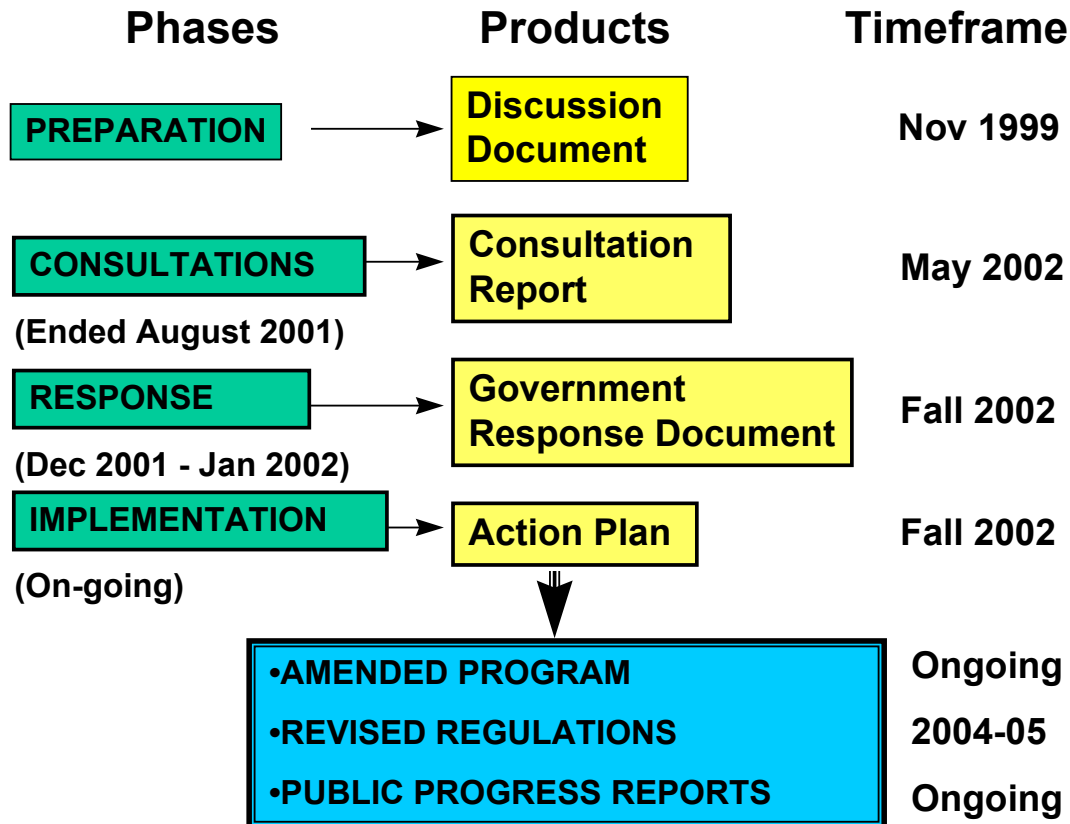
**Multistakeholder Consultations on Amending the New Substances
Notification Regulations (NSNR) and New Substances Program for
Chemicals and Polymers**

August 2002

When the New Substances Notification Regulations (NSNR) were promulgated in 1994, a commitment was made by Environment Canada and Health Canada to review them after the first three years of implementation. This was to enable adjustments to be made to the NSNR Regulations and to the New Substances program if necessary. To help fulfill this commitment, a multistakeholder consultative process was established in 1999, comprised of several phases as depicted below.

The New Substances Notification (NSN) multistakeholder consultations concluded in November 2001 and resulted in 76 recommendations for a revised NSNR and New Substances Program. Environment Canada and Health Canada made a commitment to respond to each recommendation of the consultations and will be releasing a Government Response in Fall 2002. The revised NSNR are anticipated to be in effect by 2004/2005.

Phases & Products of the NSNR Consultations



The following sections describe the NSN Multistakeholder consultations, the Themes and recommendations of the consultations, the Government Response to the recommendations, and next steps.

The Consultations Process

An Advisory Note was published in 1999 to inform the public about the then upcoming multistakeholder consultation and to invite participation by interested stakeholders.

As part of the multistakeholder consultative process, an NSN Multistakeholder Table was established to identify and organize issues, examine these issues in more detail, make recommendations, document their deliberations and deliver the results to Ministers of the Environment and of Health. The Table featured balanced representation from industry, public advocacy groups (PAG) and government.

As a starting point for consultation, a Discussion Document containing proposals for amendments was prepared by Environment Canada and Health Canada, and with support from Industry Canada. The first consultation meeting was held on November 9 - 10, 1999 where both the Discussion Document and an industry position paper were tabled. This initial meeting established the consultation's

five-theme structure. The Public Advocacy Group tabled a Position Paper which followed the Themes, and industry updated their position paper to reflect the Themes.

The NSN multistakeholder Table held eight meetings and several Subcommittee meetings between November 1999 and August 2001. Various subgroups were established to address specific issues and to develop recommendations for the NSNR and the New Substances program.

Themes and Recommendations of the Consultations

The consultations focused on five themes:

- Theme 1: Improving the Environmental & Health Assessments for New Substances;
- Theme 2: The Regulatory Framework;
- Theme 3: Transparency of the NSN Regulatory Process;
- Theme 4: Improving Responsiveness of the NSNR and New Substances Program in the Global Context; and,
- Theme 5: Service Delivery

The Consultations resulted in 76 recommendations to revise the NSNR and New Substances Program. The recommendations include revisions to the NSNR and NSNR Guidelines, changes in program procedures, increased transparency, further collaboration with industry on various issues, and intensifying international collaboration.

Some of the key changes resulting from the implementation of the recommendations include:

- 1) A reduction in the number of notification schedules and, in some cases, an increase in the volume that triggers the need for a notification;
- 2) Removal of cumulative volume tracking and “in-possession” tracking;
- 3) Simplified notification requirements for substances for Research & Development and “site-limited” substances, as well as no volume limit;
- 4) Time lag for addition to the NDSL (Non-Domestic Substances List) of substances added to the US TSCA inventory reduced to one year from five years;
- 5) For polymers of low concern (PLCs), the inventory status of monomers will no longer affect regulatory requirements;
- 6) High exposure NDSL substances subject to increased testing;

- 7) Exemptions from mammalian toxicity testing requirements for certain classes of polymers to be specified in the new schedules;
- 8) Further opportunities for class waivers or exemptions for groups of substances;
- 9) Full Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) documentation required for toxicity and ecotoxicity studies; and
- 10) Improved Guidelines to provide more extensive assistance to notifiers.

Government Response to the Recommendations of the Consultations

Environment Canada and Health Canada made a commitment to respond to each recommendation of the consultation and to make both the results of the consultations and the Government Response to the recommendations public. A report entitled "*Consultations on the CEPA New Substances Notification Regulations and New Substances Program - Final Report of the Multistakeholder Consultations*" was released in May 2002. A report entitled "*Consultations on the CEPA New Substances Notification Regulations and New Substances Program - Government Response to the Recommendations*" is anticipated for release in Fall 2002.

The "*Government Response to the Recommendations*" will describe the manner in which the Departments will implement the recommendations, based on relative priority, timing, and ease of implementation.

Next Steps

Both the "*Final Report of the Multistakeholder Consultations*" and the "*Government Response to the Recommendations*" will be used to develop a detailed Action Plan and Accountability Framework that will set the agenda for the Departments for the next 5 years. As well, these documents will form the basis for preparing legal drafting instructions for amending the NSNR, which is also currently underway. The NSNR Guidelines are being revised at the same time as the NSNR.

The "*Final Report of the Multistakeholder Consultations*" and the "*Government Response to the Recommendations*", as well as the amended NSNR, the revised NSNR Guidelines and any related Advisory Notes, will be made available on the New Substances Web site, www.ec.gc.ca/substances/, via link to the CEPA Environmental Registry Web site www.ec.gc.ca/ceparegistry/

For more information please contact the New Substances Branch at 1-800-567-1999, or by fax at 819-953-7155.