Overview of
The Existing Substances Program

April 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Canada's environmental protection strategy is driven by a vision of sustainable development. This vision depends on a clean, healthy environment, and a strong economy.

Risk management of chemical substances that can harm human health or the environment is a key objective of this vision. Risk management ensures that any harmful effects of substances on the environment and human health are prevented or reduced. One of the primary tools used to prevent and reduce the threats posed by harmful substances is the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999). CEPA 1999 provides for the assessment and management of substances that can enter into the Canadian environment. It ensures the protection of the environment and of the health of Canadians from harmful substances and other pollutants. Risk managers use the results generated by risk assessments to develop suitable responses under CEPA 1999 to prevent or control the risks posed by substances.

Within Environment Canada, the Existing Substances Division represents the Department's expertise for ecological risk assessment of existing substances. Similarly, within Health Canada, the Existing Substances Division comprises a team of experts responsible for the assessment of potential risks for human health posed by substances. Jointly, they represent the Government of Canada's Existing Substances Program whose primary purpose is to identify, prioritize, and assess existing substances to determine which ones pose a risk to Canadians or the environment. Through various activities, Health Canada and Environment Canada provide a scientifically rigorous, open and transparent process for assessing the risks posed by existing substances in Canada. They also provide information that supports actions on chemical substances that ultimately protect human health and the environment.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of the Existing Substances Program is to identify and prioritize existing substances requiring assessment, and to assess the risks that may result from human and environmental exposure to these substances.

This document is intended for a broad audience. It provides an overview of legislation, policies, and guiding principles for the assessment and management of chemical substances in Canada. It is the first in a series of documents that will describe both generally and specifically, the mandate and activities of the Existing Substances Program.

2. CEPA 1999 GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND OTHER POLICIES

The Government of Canada's environmental protection strategy is driven by a vision of sustainable development. Inherent in the strategy is the key outcome of pollution prevention. This vision depends on a clean, healthy environment, and a strong economy. Controlling substances that can cause harm to human health or the environment is a key component of this vision, ensuring any risks from substances are prevented or reduced. Controlling substances is a single process that occurs in two phases: risk assessment and risk management. The first, risk assessment, is a science-based evaluation which allows weight-of-evidence based decision making on whether a substance poses a risk. The second phase, risk management, represents the Government's response to the risk identified, which takes into consideration socio-economic factors and identifies the most suitable control measures. Assessment and the supporting science provide the necessary information for risk management activities. Acceptability of the risk assessment outcome and the risk management approach are largely dependent on good risk communication, which involves the public and stakeholder engagement at key steps of the process.

2.1 The Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999) is the principal federal legislative tool for preventing pollution and recognizes that the protection of the environment is essential to the well-being of Canadians.

In implementing their programs, Health Canada and Environment Canada, as administrators of CEPA 1999, are responsible to ensure that:

- there is public participation, openness and transparency in decision making and that there are mechanisms available for supporting these goals;
- there is commitment to promotion of human health and implementation of pollution prevention, as national goals;
- the Government of Canada is able to fulfill its international obligations with respect to the environment;
- the precautionary principle is implemented;
- the polluter pays principle is implemented;
- the importance of an ecosystem approach is recognized;

- the risk of toxic substances is recognized as a matter of national concern that transcends geographic boundaries;
- a consistent process for collaboration with other jurisdictions results in effective and integrated approaches, policies and programs to manage the risks to human health and the environment posed by the threats of toxic substances; and
- action is taken to apply all aspects of the program in a fair, predictable, transparent and consistent manner.

Parts 4 and 5 of CEPA 1999 provide the legislative framework for the assessment and management of substances that can enter into the Canadian environment. The framework ensures the protection of the environment and of the health of Canadians from harmful substances and other pollutants.

Program activities are also guided by a variety of Government guidelines and policies, especially those outlined in:

- "Toxic Substances Management Policy" (Government of Canada, 1995);
- "Science Advice for Government Effectiveness (SAGE)" (CSTA, 1999); and
- "Framework for the Application of Precaution in Science-based Decision Making about Risk" (PCO, 2003).

2.2 Toxic Substances Management Policy

The federal Toxic Substances Management Policy, introduced in 1995, takes a preventive and precautionary approach to dealing with substances that enter the environment and that could harm the environment or human health. It provides decision makers with direction and sets out a science-based management framework to ensure that federal programs are consistent with the objectives of the policy. Some elements of the policy have been integrated into law through CEPA 1999.

The key management objectives of the policy are:

- the virtual elimination from the environment of toxic substances that result predominantly from human activity and that are persistent and bioaccumulative (referred to as Track 1 substances); and

- management of other toxic substances and substances of concern throughout their entire life cycles, to prevent or minimize their release into the environment (referred to as Track 2 substances).

Consistent with this policy, risk managers at Health Canada and Environment Canada use the information provided by risk assessments to develop appropriate approaches to manage the risks posed by toxic substances. Through its risk assessment activities, the Existing Substances Program provides a key mechanism for identifying candidate substances for risk management, and is an important contributor to decision making by risk managers.

A toxic substance is defined under section 64 of CEPA 1999 as being a substance that:

> "…is entering or may enter the environment in a quantity or concentration or under conditions that

(a) have or may have an immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment or its biological diversity;

(b) constitute or may constitute a danger to the environment on which life depends; or

(c) constitute or may constitute a danger in Canada to human life or health."

Toxic substances that are both persistent and bioaccumulative have been recognized as requiring special attention, as reflected in both domestic and international regulatory and policy frameworks. Once in the environment, it may be difficult or impossible to manage these substances or remediate past contamination. In addition, remote and cold regions, such as the Canadian Arctic, can act as global sinks for some of these compounds, making it important for Canada to act both domestically and internationally. Although it may not be possible to accurately predict all of the effects of these substances on the environment, the potential exists for these substances to cause long-term impacts. The use of a preventive approach in assessment of these substances is particularly important to ensure that harm to the environment and its biological diversity does not occur.

Substances that meet the criteria set out under section 64 of CEPA 1999 are considered for risk management measures such as regulations, guidelines or codes of practice, to control any aspect of their life cycle, from the research and development stage through manufacture, use, storage, transport and ultimate disposal.

Furthermore, when a substance meets the criteria set out under section 64 and is persistent, bioaccumulative and results primarily from human activity, it is proposed for virtual elimination under CEPA 1999.

More information on Risk Management can be found at: www.ec.gc.ca/toxics/en/index.cfm

2.3 Role of Science in Decision Making

Science Advice for Government Effectiveness (SAGE) was developed by the Council of Science and Technology Advisors, an external advisory committee, in May 1999 in response to the request by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Union to examine how the government could improve its use of science advice in reaching decisions and its explanations about how those decisions are reached. The SAGE report identified six key principles:

I. Early Issue Identification
II. Inclusiveness
III. Sound Science and Science Advice
IV. Uncertainty and Risk
V. Transparency and Openness
VI. Review

The SAGE report provided the basis for the development of a government-wide set of principles and guidelines for the effective use of science in making policy and regulatory decisions, which is captured in the Government of Canada paper entitled "A Framework for Science and Technology Advice: Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Use of Science and Technology Advice in Government Decision Making" (Government of Canada, 2000). The principles and guidelines in the report address how science advice should be sought and applied to enhance

the ability of government decision makers to make informed decisions. While some of these are suitably applied only at higher levels of the organization or at later stages of the toxics management process, many of them are directly applicable within the Existing Substances Program.

Environment Canada's "Science Advice for Government Effectiveness: Recommendations for Implementing the SAGE Principles" (ECSTAB, 1999) and Health Canada's "Health Canada Decision-Making Framework for Identifying, Assessing, and Managing Health Risks" (Health Canada, 2000) demonstrate the Government of Canada's dedication to implementation of the SAGE principles as a whole and recognizes their importance to the values of a science-based department. These documents note that science assessment is a key discipline for delivering science to policy makers.

2.4 Precaution in Science-based Decision Making

The Federal Government has developed a document entitled "A Framework for the Application of Precaution in Science-based Decision Making about Risk" (PCO, 2003). This paper addresses the application of precaution in its various forms – "precaution", "the Precautionary Principle" or "the precautionary approach" – all of which have three basic components: the need for a decision; a risk of serious or irreversible harm; and a lack of full scientific certainty.

As stated in the document, the application of precaution primarily affects the development of options and the decision phases within science-based risk management, is clearly linked to scientific analysis, and cannot be applied without an appropriate assessment of scientific factors and consequent risks. A key role of developing ecological and human health risk assessments is to provide the necessary evaluation of science and potential risks to support the use of precaution in the ultimate decision making process, at which point factors such as social and ethical values and political and economic considerations will also be taken into account.

The "precautionary principle" is entrenched in CEPA 1999. In the preamble, CEPA 1999 recognizes that the "Government of Canada is committed to implementing the precautionary principle. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation." In addition, section 76.1 of CEPA 1999 specifically directs the Ministers to apply a weight-of-evidence approach and the precautionary principle when conducting and interpreting the results of assessments of existing substances.

As described in greater detail in PCO (2003), the general principles outlining the distinguishing features of precautionary decision making are that:

- The application of precaution is a legitimate and distinctive decision-making approach, notably within risk management.
- It is legitimate that decisions be guided by society's chosen level of protection against risk.
- In risk management, sound scientific information and its evaluation must be the basis for the decision to apply precaution and the measure selected in applying precaution; the scientific information base and responsibility for producing it may shift as knowledge evolves.

- Mechanisms should exist for re-evaluating the basis for decision and for providing a transparent process for further consideration, recognizing that in some cases re-evaluation may not be practical or productive.
- A high degree of transparency, clear accountability and meaningful public involvement are appropriate.

3. IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITIZING SUBSTANCES FOR ASSESSMENT

3.1 Identifying Candidates for Risk Assessment

In Canada there are approximately 23 000 substances on Canada's Domestic Substances List (DSL); these are referred to as "existing substances", most of which have never been assessed by the federal government for their potential risks to human health or the environment. For the Existing Substances Program to be successful it is important that assessment priorities be correctly identified and key data gaps identified at an early stage so that information required to complete an assessment is available when needed. Candidates for risk assessment under the Existing Substances Program are identified through seven main mechanisms (or "feeders") of equal importance:

- **Categorization of the DSL**: Under section 73 of CEPA 1999, the Ministers of Environment and Health had to identify by September 2006 which of the 23 000 substances on the DSL, on the basis of available information, (a) may present, to individuals in Canada, the greatest potential for exposure; or (b) are persistent [take a long time to break down] or bioaccumulative [collect in living organisms], and inherently toxic to human beings or to non-human organisms. For more information on the categorization process and preliminary results please visit Environment Canada's Existing Substances website at: www.ec.gc.ca/substances/ese/eng/dsl/cat_index.cfm, and Health Canada's Existing Substances website at: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/contaminants/existsub/categor/index_e.html

- **Industry information**: Sections 70 and 71 of CEPA 1999 are information gathering provisions. Section 70 puts the onus on industries to provide information they possess that reasonably supports the conclusion that a substance is "toxic" or capable of becoming "toxic" as defined under CEPA 1999. Section 71 allows the Minister of the Environment to require all parties engaged in activity involving a substance to provide information for the purpose of assessing whether the substance is toxic or is capable of becoming toxic, or for the purpose of assessing whether to control, or the manner in which to control a substance. This includes the authority to request existing information or to require sampling, testing and the generation of new data.

- **Information exchange and review of decisions of other jurisdictions**: Section 75 of CEPA 1999 requires the Minister of the Environment, to the extent possible, to cooperate and develop procedures for exchanging information on substances with other governments in Canada and member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Also, decisions made by these other jurisdictions to prohibit or substantially restrict substances for environmental or health reasons are to

be reviewed to determine whether the substances are "toxic" or capable of becoming "toxic" according to CEPA 1999. For more detailed information on the proposed process for reviewing provincial, territorial or international decisions please visit Environment Canada's Existing Substances Website at www.ec.gc.ca/substances/ese/eng/sect75.cfm

- **Nominations to the Priority Substances List (PSL)**: Section 76 of CEPA 1999 requires the Ministers of the Environment and of Health to establish and maintain the Priority Substances List (PSL), which specifies substances to which priority should be given in assessing whether they are toxic or capable of becoming toxic. Any person may request that a substance be added to the PSL. The Ministers of the Environment and of Health determine whether nominated substances should be prioritized for assessment and added to the PSL.

- **New substances notifications:** The CEPA 1999 approach to the control of new substances is both proactive and preventative, employing a pre-import or pre-manufacture notification and assessment process. When this process identifies a new substance that may pose a risk to health or the environment, the Act empowers Environment Canada to intervene prior to or during the earliest stages of its introduction into Canada. The New Substances Program provides advance warning as well as knowledge of commercial chemicals that may be of concern. It also allows the Existing Substances Program to identify substances or classes of chemicals on the DSL that may have chemical properties similar to those managed under the New Substances Program. For more information on the New Substances Program please visit Environment Canada's New Substances website at: www.ec.gc.ca/substances/nsb/eng/home_e.shtml, and Health Canada's New Chemical Substances webpage at: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/contaminants/chem-chim/index_e.html.

- **Emerging science and monitoring**: The tracking of information from emerging science and monitoring studies allows the government to identify and respond to emerging concerns. Canada is working closely with government research institutes and Canadian universities, through informal working relationships, workshops and conferences, to keep abreast of new science and environmental monitoring information that give rise to concerns.

- **International assessment or data collection:** Many international programs deal with the risk assessment or risk management of industrial chemicals and identify substances for which some action should be considered. These programs also promote the mutual acceptance, and shared use of data, and the development of harmonized policies for managing risks to human health and the environment. Canada actively participates in the OECD Chemicals Programme and has established a strong relationship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Existing Chemicals Program to exchange information on substances of concern.

3.2 Setting Priorities for Assessments

The number of substances identified by the categorization exercise alone renders it impossible for Canada to assess all substances simultaneously. Therefore, the program is focusing

resources on those in most urgent need of assessment. The objective of setting priorities is two-fold:

- to set priorities for risk assessments and ensure that substances of greatest potential concern are addressed first; and

- to provide the risk management program with the means to effectively manage priorities, particularly in light of demanding and fluctuating departmental priorities.

The consistency with which all substances on the DSL were categorized provides the Government of Canada with a commensurate way to identify assessment and risk management priorities based on a set of established criteria. This prioritization framework is applicable to substances identified for assessment via the categorization exercise or via other mechanisms. Groups of substances that correspond to the different parameters used for categorization will be identified, and the relative hazard of individual substances can be determined by comparing overall values for each substance.

Categorization of the DSL has also provided a comprehensive overview of the level of data available to characterize existing substances in Canada. While certain substances have comprehensive data sets based on experimental data, the majority of substances have no, or a very limited amount of experimental data. It is critical to take data availability into consideration so appropriate next steps can be identified.

The Chemicals Management Plan, announced in December 2006, outlines how the Government of Canada will address certain substances identified as priorities for action and will implement a series of measures regarding these substances to further protect the health of Canadians and the environment from the potential effects associated with exposure to these substances. These measures will:

- Improve, where possible, persistence and/or bioaccumulation information;
- Help to identify industrial best practices in order to set benchmarks for risk management, product stewardship, and virtual elimination; and
- Help to collect environmental release, exposure, substance and/or product use information.

In so doing, timely risk assessment and management interventions will be carried out to minimize the risk of serious or irreversible harm associated with certain chemicals.

More information on the Chemicals Management Plan can be found at www.chemicalsubstances.gc.ca.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

Substances identified as priorities for risk assessments undergo a process which compares the effects of substances on humans or the environment to the potential for exposure.

4.1 Scope of Risk Assessments

Even though substances are identified and prioritized for assessment using a range of approaches, assessments conducted under the Existing Substances Program fall under one of the following mandates:

- **Priority Substances List Assessments**: Section 76 of CEPA 1999 requires the Ministers of Environment and Health to establish a Priority Substances List (PSL) that identifies substances to be assessed on a priority basis.
- **Screening Assessments**: Section 74 of CEPA 1999 requires the Ministers of Environment and Health to conduct screening assessments of substances that have been identified through the categorization exercise.
- **Reviews of decisions of other jurisdictions**: Section 75 of CEPA 1999 requires the Ministers to review decisions of other jurisdictions specifically prohibiting or substantially restricting substances.
- **Other assessments**: Section 68 of CEPA 1999 provides further general provisions for assessing, and for making recommendations with respect to substances, including measures to control their presence in the environment.

In this regulatory context, assessments are conducted to determine if a substance meets the criteria set out under section 64 of CEPA 1999 - that is, whether or not a substance

> "…is entering or may enter the environment in a quantity or concentration or under conditions that
>
> (a) have or may have an immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment or its biological diversity;
>
> (b) constitute or may constitute a danger to the environment on which life depends; or
>
> (c) constitute or may constitute a danger in Canada to human life or health."

Determining whether a substance meets the criteria set out under section 64 is therefore a function of its release into the environment, the resulting concentrations in environmental media and/or the potential for exposure in humans, and its inherent toxicity. Risk assessments are objective and science based, and not influenced by socio-economic considerations.

Based upon screening assessment findings, Ministers of Environment and Health may propose one of the following measures:

- taking no further action at this time under CEPA 1999;
- adding the substance to the PSL for further assessment;
- recommending addition of the substance to Schedule 1 of CEPA 1999, and development of risk management instruments and, where appropriate, implementation of virtual elimination.

4.2 Principles and Approaches

Timely delivery of a credible assessment outcome is determined both by the administrative procedures that are followed and by the robustness of the science that forms the basis of the assessment. The Existing Substances Program will apply a number of principles and approaches that have been derived from overarching guidelines and policies, such as those previously mentioned (particularly the SAGE and the Precautionary Principle):

- **Predictability:** In order to foster consistency and predictability of the assessment process, the approaches taken to identify and analyze information and to characterize entry, exposure, effects and risks will be documented in publicly available guidance documents.

- **Innovation**: Approaches to risk assessment are constantly changing as science evolves. In addition, risk assessors may often face situations where assessments must be conducted for substances for which there is limited information relating to their properties, release, exposure or effects. The Existing Substances Program will use the latest tools and approaches, potentially in conjunction with domestic or international partners, to produce faster, more efficient, and technically solid assessments.
- **Openness and inclusiveness**: A key to achieving timely and credible assessment outcomes is stakeholder engagement. Ongoing consultations with interested parties at specific stages in the assessment process will demonstrate the Program's commitment to openness and inclusiveness. Furthermore, publicly available documents describe various aspects of the Program, including its policies, processes, and the technical approaches used in conducting assessments.

- **Information management:** In order to conduct rigorous assessments, the Existing Substances Program requires a wide range of substance-specific data including chemical and physical properties, quantities manufactured, quantities used and imported in Canada, its movement and persistence in the environment, effects on humans, effects on animals and plants, concentrations in the environment, and the results of long-term and short-term exposure to the chemical substance. The Existing Substances Program collects this information in a variety of ways, including literature searches and modelling exercises, and may generate this information by conducting or supporting research and, testing and conducting surveys. Also, stakeholders are expected to participate actively in providing the program with input at the outset of an assessment. All information will be rigorously analysed in order to ensure that the information used in the assessment is scientifically sound.

- **Use of sound science**: Approaches used by the Existing Substances Program to carry out risk assessments will be consistent with those used in regulatory assessments internationally. Methods presented in technical guidance documents are thoroughly reviewed and discussed. In assessing specific substances, external expertise will be sought, when appropriate, in conducting the assessments. In addition, draft assessments will be subjected to an external science review step, involving appropriate experts from government, academia, industry, or non-governmental organizations, notably targeting input on critical technical issues. Peer review may include multiple steps depending on the issues at hand.

- **Transparency:** Maintaining transparency is a key to credible assessment and management of the risks of substances. The Existing Substances Program recognizes that clear communication of uncertainties is an important part of achieving transparency. To satisfy the need for transparency, as well as to support sound assessment and risk management decisions, uncertainties as well as the approaches or assumptions made in dealing with those uncertainties will be recognized explicitly in any assessment.

- **Use of a weight-of-evidence approach and precautionary principle**: Section 76.1 of CEPA 1999 states that when conducting and interpreting the results of an assessment, a weight-of-evidence approach and the precautionary principle shall be applied. Under the Existing Substances Program, a weight-of-evidence approach and the precautionary principle will be used throughout the risk assessment and management process. Precaution in an assessment will usually be manifested through conservative assumptions or by considering the thoroughness, consistency, concordance, plausibility and other factors affecting the robustness of independent experimental observations.

- **Accountability**: The Existing Substances Program recognizes that assessment activities may require engagement from various stakeholders. However, the Program retains ultimate accountability for timely delivery of its publicly stated assessment objectives, and its performance will be measured on that basis.

4.3 Conducting Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are conducted to determine whether or not a substance may cause harm to the environment and/or to human health, considering both the inherent properties of a substance (i.e. characterization of a substance's hazard), and the potential for human or environmental exposure to the substance in Canada.

Assessment of substances involves reviewing and characterizing information collected, and integrating this information on exposure and effects by considering the weight of evidence to reach a conclusion regarding the potential for risk to humans or the environment.

The scope of a particular assessment may vary according to the complexity of the issues involved. The Existing Substances Program uses all scientifically robust information available at the time of the assessment to make conclusions on risk using a weight-of-evidence approach.

Detailed information on the various aspects of the assessment process, including technical guidance on methods used to conduct assessments, may be found in Existing Substances Program guidance documents.

4.4 Concluding on Assessments

Every assessment, no matter how detailed and comprehensive, includes elements of uncertainty. Uncertainty may influence the estimation of the magnitude and likelihood of risk, and could impact the conclusion reached by an assessment. Therefore, a critical element in developing credible assessment conclusions is the identification and open communication of uncertainties and the measures that were taken to account for them. This includes identifying individual sources of uncertainty and considering their cumulative impact on the confidence in the assessment conclusion.

In some cases, lack of information precludes refinement of assessment scenarios, resulting in conclusions that are based on conservative default assumptions. In such cases, stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide information to reduce uncertainties. When such information is not provided, decisions on whether or not to take preventive or control actions can only be made by balancing the potential for risk and magnitude of impacts with knowledge of uncertainties.

When several lines of evidence point in the same direction (e.g. suggest potential risks), certainty in the overall conclusion of the assessment is increased. A weight-of-evidence approach can also facilitate making conclusions in the face of conflicting information.

The weight of evidence comprises the information necessary to reach a conclusion. Decisions are therefore made as soon as the necessary scientifically defendable information, which varies between assessments, is collected.

5. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The federal government recognizes that consulting with all types of stakeholders and cooperating with other jurisdictions are essential processes. Canada is committed to a clear, open and accountable assessment process.

5.1 Role of Stakeholders

The Existing Substances Program further recognizes that efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of program activities is in large part due to involvement of stakeholders at key milestones in the assessment process, especially during (i) assessment framework development, (ii) prioritization, (iii) scoping/problem formulation/issue identification, (iv) expert peer review, and (v) the public comment period. Stakeholders include representatives of industries and industry associations, non-governmental organizations, environmental and health groups, and labour and consumer organizations.

The Existing Substances Program has identified roles and in some cases responsibilities for stakeholders. Some examples include:

- Sharing of data, information and expertise that is critical to ensuring that correct decisions are made;
- Reviewing the way in which information was used in making those decisions;
- Promoting effective communication between the different stakeholder communities;
- Facilitating coordination between the Government and specific industrial sectors during planning and assessment phases;
- Participating in discussions concerning modifications to the framework of the program or to development of new approaches to apply within the program;
- Bringing forward issues or identifying substances for consideration by the Government;
- Supporting general proactive good stewardship practices in the handling and management of chemicals.

When an assessment report has been drafted, and prior to its approval by senior managers, it is sent for science review to a variety of Canadian and international experts, selected from academia, government, industry and/or environmental groups. A revised report is subsequently prepared, taking into account the comments of these expert reviewers.

Final copies of the assessment reports, as well as other communication material, are made readily available to interested stakeholders.

5.2 Communicating Results of Assessments

Risk assessment reports are subject to a 60-day public comment period following publication of a notice in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, in which the public is invited to comment on the scientific findings and the proposed measures in the draft assessment reports.

6. CONTACTS

For further information or documentation regarding the Existing Substances Program, please visit:

- Environment Canada's website at www.ec.gc.ca/substances/ese/eng/esehome.cfm
- Health Canada's website at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/contaminants/existsub/index_e.html
- the CEPA Environmental Registry at www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARegistry
- or contact us directly:

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