

PFCAs and Precursors: A Proposed Action Plan for Assessment and Management

Research and International Cooperation

Consultation Meeting on
PFCA Action Plan
February 2006

Outline

- Benefits of Further Research
- Identification of Research Topics
- Current and Planned Research
- International Cooperation
- Avenues for cooperation
- Summary

Benefits of Further Research

- Continued research will reduce uncertainties and increase knowledge on sources, rates, mechanisms, pathways and effects.
- Adding to the knowledge base will improve assessments and refine management approaches.
- Inform the development of alternatives with favourable characteristics
 - Reduced persistence
 - Reduced bioaccumulation
 - Reduced hazard

Identification of Research Topics

- Areas for further research are being identified via:
 - Comments on Assessment reports
 - Scientific literature
 - Dialogue with Stakeholders
 - Scientific Meetings, e.g.
 - Fluoros (Aug. 2005)
 - Workshop on Environmental Fate of Fluorotelomer Based Polymers (Sept. 2004)
 - SETAC Meetings

Current and Planned Research

- Significant work being undertaken by Government researchers, Industry and Academia
- Regulators will offer input during the planning of research programs
- Planned study and active research is underway in a number of areas including:
 - Toxicology and Ecotoxicology
 - Environmental fate and transport, including degradation of fluorotelomer based substances
 - Environmental monitoring and trends

International Cooperation

- Manufacture and processing of PFCAs and fluorotelomer based substances occurs in several countries
- Long Range Transport dimension of fluorotelomer substances
- A cooperative approach with other regulators will assist in:
 - Developing approaches by other jurisdictions which complement Canadian actions
 - avoiding a “patchwork” of approaches

Avenues for Cooperation

- Share research, assessment and management approaches through:
 - Bilateral discussions with other jurisdictions
 - e.g. continue working with US EPA who recently issued a challenge to Industry to reduce PFOA, PFOA precursors and higher homologue chemicals
 - Research programs e.g. PERFORCE
 - International fora e.g. OECD Chemicals Program
 - Dialogue with Industry and NGO stakeholders

Summary

- Further research will:
 - reduce uncertainties in assessment and management
 - Inform development of alternatives
- International cooperation desirable as the industry and the movement of pollutants are both global in nature
- Cooperation with other jurisdictions will encourage approaches which complement Canadian proposals