

TSCA/iPCB Workgroup Meeting Summary

August 5, 2020

TSCA Members in Attendance:

Scott Braithwaite (ACA)	Mike Peterson (The Lands Council)
Joel Breems (Avista)	Elsa Pond (WA DOT)
David Darling (ACA)	Karl Rains (Ecology)
Jeff Donovan (City of Spokane)	Kyle Shimabuku (Gonzaga University)
Lauren Heine (NW Green Chemistry)	Dean Weaver (WA DOT)
Gary Jones (Printing United Alliance)	Jay West (American Chemistry Council)
Doug Krapas (IEP)	Tammie Williams (WA DOT)
Robert Mott (Mott Consulting, LLC)	Lisa Dally Wilson (Dally Environmental)
Cheryl Niemi (Ecology)	Riaz Zaman (ACA)
Michael Ober (TDSC)	

Agenda Items Discussed:

General:

- David Darling requested that Riaz Zaman, Counsel, Government Affairs with the American Coatings Association be added to the TSCA/iPCB Workgroup distribution list. **Action D. Krapas**
- Kyle Shimabuku, PhD, PE, Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering with Gonzaga University has been added to the TSCA/iPCB Workgroup distribution list. Kyle's department has been contracted by the SRRTTF to perform research on PCBs in products to support a potential data base.
- Gary Jones's organization affiliation has been changed to the Printing United Alliance from the former Specialty Graphic Imaging Association (SGIA)

1. Road Paint Paper:

- a. With approval of the Road Paint Paper by the SRRTTF at the June meeting, the paper is now posted to the SRRTTF website: http://srrttf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SRRTTF-iPCB-Road-Paint-Case-Study-Final_061720.pdf

2. Update on PCB EPA Method 1668 study of TiO₂ Pigments: Michael Ober provided the following update on the TDSC testing project:

- a. Sampling of the various TiO₂ pigments used in coatings, plastics and paper will occur during the months of July and August.
- b. All samples will be submitted to SGS-AXYS in North Carolina for analysis.
- c. If all goes well, they are scheduled to report results before the end of the year.
- d. There were requests on the format for presenting the data (range of results vs. aggregate), but Michael cautioned that the data must be presented in a manner to protect the confidentiality and proprietary nature of the participating manufacturers.
- e. **Action J. West & M. Ober to continue updates.**

3. PCB's in products data base updates:

a. Gonzaga Research Project:

- At the July meeting, the SRRTTF approved a contract with Gonzaga University to research iPCBs in products to support a potential data base (Phase 1 approach):
- The project is scheduled for completion by December 31, 2020

- Recommended leads for possible data include Rutgers University, University of Iowa, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Delaware River Basin Commission, and EPA Method 1668 laboratories.
- **Action M. Peterson & K. Shimabuku to provide project status updates**

b. **Monsanto Settlement:**

- K. Rains is exploring potential funding from the State's Monsanto settlement for this and possibly other PCB related projects:
- Various Ecology programs have submitted lists of projects/initiatives for consideration
- The request for the SRRTTF is broader in nature and not necessarily project specific
- No response to date
- **Action K. Rains to continue updates**

c. **Ecology Sponsored Data Base:**

- More investigation is needed into the Comprehensive Plan provision for a Clearinghouse to be developed by Ecology with SRRTTF support.
- C. Niemi reported that this element of the Comprehensive Plan may not have been fully understood by Ecology Management, since the existing Ecology data base cannot easily accept outside data and would be very labor intensive.
- K. Rains confirmed that Ecology already has a products data base, but that it is limited to Ecology related work and that expanding it beyond may be difficult, especially considering resource limitations.
- More investigation will be needed if this project develops into subsequent implementation phases to determine if Ecology's data base fits this need. Suggest waiting for the discovery from the Gonzaga research project.
- **Action Ecology, K. Rains & C. Niemi to consider after Gonzaga study**

4. **Education/Outreach:** M. Peterson provided an update on The Lands Council's national outreach campaign to expand knowledge on the iPCB issue:

- a. M. Peterson is working with K. Shimabuku (Gonzaga University) in reaching out to the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) to help support Gonzaga's research efforts into the data base for iPCB products and to further investigate ECOS efforts on the TSCA/WQS paradox.
 - C. Niemi & K. Zarker provided the following contact at ECOS: Sarah Grace Longworth, Project Manager: <https://www.ecos.org/about-ecos/staff/sarah-grace-longworth/>
- b. M. Peterson & K. Shimabuku (Gonzaga University) received an invitation to present at the virtual Roanoke River Conference on October 21-22, to share the work we are doing with the SRRTTF and the PCBs in products database. Additionally, sharing the driver behind this need - the discrepancy between what is allowed in products under TSCA vs water quality regulations for PCBs.
- c. **Action M. Peterson & K. Shimabuku to continue updates of a. & b. above**

5. iPCB Workshop:

- a. The slide decks and minutes from all of iPCB Working Group Meetings (Technical Considerations, Government/Regulatory, and Advocacy/Policy) were posted on the SRRTTF website: http://srrttf.org/?page_id=10188
- b. The outcomes and potential next step projects from the iPCB Workshop, the subsequent iPCB Working Group Meetings, and the Road Paint Whitepaper are to be compiled for evaluation by the TSCA/iPCB Workgroup. D. Krapas will consolidate into a poll for TSCA/iPCB Workgroup members to rank for future discussion and project development. The group decided that a review of the topics is warranted prior to polling. **Action D. Krapas**

6. Safer Products WA: C. Niemi provided a brief summary on the status of this program:

- a. A report was submitted to the legislature that includes iPCBs in Paints and Printing Inks: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/2004019.pdf>
- b. Ecology's next steps include a public webinar in August to discuss the report
- c. **Action Ecology, K. Rains & C. Niemi to continue updates**

7. Funding: TTWG and Funding Workgroups to develop a coordinated strategy and consider using current funding to support this effort. Karl will put this request onto the Funding workgroup agenda for discussion and bring recommendations to SRRTTF for consideration. Lisa will put on the TTWG schedule. **Action L. Dally Wilson & K. Rains**

8. EU Recast of POP Regulations - L. Heine referenced the recent recast of the European Union regulations regarding persistent organic pollutants that appears to disallow any contamination of PCBs in products. The group asked J. West if he would be able to provide a summary to the group.

- a. Jay provided the following links to information regarding the POP Regulations:
 - https://www.chemsafetypro.com/Topics/EU/new_changes_recast_POPs_regulation_EU_2019_1021.html
 - <https://www.tuvsud.com/en-us/e-ssentials-newsletter/consumer-products-and-retail-essentials/e-ssentials-10-2019/eu-pops-regulation-recast-is-now-published>
 - <https://www.intertek.com/consumer/insight-bulletins/recast-on-persistent-organic-pollutants-regulation-published/>
 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R1021&rid=3> (the recast language itself)
- b. Regarding PCBs, the recast appears to incorporate terms of a 1996 Council Directive concerning management of equipment (transformers, capacitors, etc.) containing PCBs.
- c. L. Heine believes that the recast is also applicable to pigments.
- d. Dr. Mott explained that in the EU and Canada, "PCBs" means 3 or more chlorination's, so chemical companies do not even look for mono or di-chlorinated congeners.
- e. L. Heine believes that the regulation is applicable to all 209 congeners.
- f. **Action Dr. Mott to locate the citation that identifies this exclusion and the test methods used in Europe and Canada to evaluate PCBs at the homologue level**

9. **EPA research opportunities:** no representatives from EPA were on the call to provide an update to the following projects:
- a. The workgroup discussed obtaining a contact at the NTP, so that a representative from Ecology could contact for regular status updates.
 - d. D. Krapas had a follow-up conversation with L. Edmondson regarding the status of EPA projects:
 - Lucy stated that with the COVID situation, projects at EPA have slowed down
 - Lucy had no specific updates on the EPA projects, but will attempt to get for the TSCA/iPCB Workgroup meeting in September which she should be able to attend.
 - Lucy will attempt to track down a contact at NTP for the TSCA/iPCB Workgroup
 - b. **iPCB Key words for Scholarly Articles:** Michelle stated during our February, 2020 call that EPA is resource limited and is focused on higher priority projects such as site clean-ups and iPCB product testing (see below Children's Product Testing), so this particular project has been assigned a lower priority and is currently on the back burner. **Action EPA, M. Mullin & L. Edmondson**
 - c. **Children's Product Testing:** Michelle stated during our February, 2020 call that this remains a work in progress, as EPA attempts to understand the variability of the results and other environmental influences (air emissions, dust adsorption, etc.). **Action EPA, M. Mullin & L. Edmondson**
 - d. **NTP risk study of various Congeners and Aroclors:** NTP is evaluating toxicity of PCB congeners 11, 95, 126, 153 and Aroclors 1016 and 1254. **Action EPA, M. Mullin & L. Edmondson**