



Thursday, January 17, 2008

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) in my capacity as Chair of the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) Working Group to invite you to our upcoming stakeholder meeting in the spring of 2008. At present, our next stakeholder session is planned for 5–6 March 2008, in Tucson, Arizona, USA. We invite your participation in the upcoming stakeholder session and ask that you reserve these days on your calendar.

The trilateral CEC SMOC program is in the process of realigning its efforts to better address the chemicals assessment and management needs of North America. We heard and discussed comments on our initial thinking at our last stakeholder session in April 2007, in Monterrey, Mexico. The SMOC Working Group presented a series of projects intended to serve as strategies for catalyzing cooperation (SCC) among the governments and stakeholders. These SCC projects can be found at

<http://www.cec.org/calendar/details/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=2042> and include the following:

1. **Discussion paper** – Concept Description: Establishment of a Foundation for Chemicals Management Across North America
2. **Discussion paper** – Concept Description: Reduce the Risk from Chemicals of Concern to North America
3. **Discussion paper** – Concept Description: Improve Environmental Performance through a Sector Approach to the Sound Management of Toxic Substances
4. **Discussion paper** – Concept Description: Promotion of a Sustainable Regional Approach to Monitoring and Assessment of Toxic Chemicals

Since that time, the SMOC Working Group has made progress in all of these areas, establishing a foundation for management by assisting Mexico in developing a national chemicals inventory; reducing risk through identification of an initial set of chemicals of mutual concern; improving sector performance through increased efforts to collaborate on issues respecting greening of the electronics industry; and initiation of efforts concerning the development of a sustainable regional (bio) monitoring program.

We look forward to updating you on our progress in these and other areas at the stakeholder meeting and to hearing your comments and suggestions. Responding to the input received in Monterrey, we are planning to retain the series of parallel breakout sessions on the morning of the second day to allow for more active engagement on the issues.

Commission for  
Environmental Cooperation  
of North America

Comisión para la  
Cooperación Ambiental  
de América del Norte

Commission de  
coopération environnementale  
de l'Amérique du Nord

Also of note is the agreement to implement trilateral cooperation in chemicals assessment and management which was announced by Canada, Mexico, and the United States at the Montebello Summit held in Montebello, Quebec, in August. This North American effort to cooperate on assessment and management of chemicals, while clearly intended to complement and reinforce the work being done by the SMOC, provides a broadened basis for bi- and trilateral cooperation among the three countries. This cooperation will not impinge on each country's authority to make and implement national regulatory decisions. The combination of the CEC SMOC work plus the cooperation set in motion by the Montebello Summit provides a valuable example of regional implementation of the risk-based framework envisaged by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and also reaffirms the commitments made by the countries to the 2020 goals elaborated by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The relevant text from the Montebello Summit can be found at <<http://www.epa.gov/chemrtk/>> under the "highlights" section

Thank you for your consideration of this information. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Attached you will find a preliminary agenda and the registration form, which we ask that you kindly fill out and return to CEC Meeting Services at your earliest convenience, and not later than 1 February 2008.

The CEC has limited funding available to assist with travel and accommodation expenses for a number of participants. If you would like to be considered for such support, please include a brief statement with your registration form indicating why you believe you may be eligible for assistance and how much funding you would require. Appropriate statements might describe: specialized interest in the topics covered, representation of a large interest sector or multiple groups who share an interest; specialized expertise with the area/substance of concern. We will review all requests received by 1 February 2008, and advise you within one week of this date whether we are able to provide support for you. Any requests received after that date will be considered only if there are funds remaining.

For more detailed information please contact Luke J. Trip ([ltrip@cec.org](mailto:ltrip@cec.org)) or Erika Hercules ([ehercules@cec.org](mailto:ehercules@cec.org)).

Sincerely,

*Charles M. Auer*

Charles M. Auer  
Chair SMOC and  
Director USEPA OPPT

cc: SMOC WG members