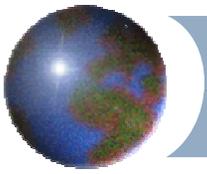


Persistent Organic Pollutants

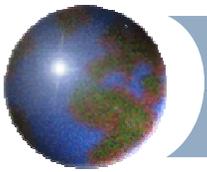
**Children's Environmental Health and Lindane
Anchorage, Alaska
February 11, 2004**

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Washington, DC**



Major Points for Presentation

- **Persistent organic pollutants (POPs):
what are they and why are they a
concern**
- **International efforts to address POPs**
- **Where lindane fits in**



What are POPs?

- Organic (carbon-based) compounds
- From natural or man-made sources
- Persist in the environment
- Bioaccumulate in the food chain
- Toxic to humans and wildlife
- Capable of traveling long distances in the air and water

Why are POPs a Concern?

- Linked to reproductive, behavioral, developmental, endocrine disruption, & other health effects
- Exposure through:
 - ✓ production and use
 - ✓ emissions
 - ✓ consumption of foods contaminated with POPs
 - ✓ stockpiles and wastes
- Potential higher risk populations:
 - ✓ those exposed during use
 - ✓ those reliant on a subsistence diet

International efforts to address POPs

- Stockholm Convention on POPs
- LRTAP POPs Protocol
- Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy
- North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

Stockholm Convention on POPs

- Legally-binding global treaty
- 47 Parties (need 50) likely to enter into force in 2004
- Canada, Mexico have ratified; USA has signed, not ratified
- Lists 12 substances (lindane not on list)
- Prohibits most production & use of listed pesticides and industrial chemicals
- Reduce and/or eliminate releases of by-product POPs
- Contains mechanism to add new POPs
- Manage POPs wastes/stockpiles in an environmentally sound manner
- www.pops.int/

US Action on Stockholm POPs

Pesticides

- All uses cancelled
- All food tolerances revoked
- No production, import, or export

PCBs

- Manufacture & new uses prohibited in 1978
- Regulated as hazardous air pollutant
- Regulated as priority toxic pollutant

Dioxins and Furans

- Regulated as hazardous air pollutants
- Regulated as priority toxic pollutants

LRTAP POPs

- Legally-binding regional treaty
- Entered into force in October 2003
- Canada has ratified; USA has signed but not ratified
- 16 substances, including HCH/lindane
- Protocol restricts lindane to six uses
- USA allows 2 uses: seed treatment, public health
- Has mechanism to add new substances
- www.unece.org/env/lrtap/pops_h1.htm

Binational Toxics Strategy

- Voluntary agreement between USA and Canada
- Goal: the virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances in Great Lakes basin
- 12 level 1 substances, nominated by both countries, have joint challenge goals
- 15 level 2 substances nominated by one country. Includes HCH.
- www.epa.gov/glnpo/bns/index.html

North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation

- NAFTA environmental side agreement
- Reduce/eliminate risks from chemicals of concern to Canada, Mexico, USA
- North American Regional Action Plans
- DDT, Chlordane, PCBs, mercury, hexachlorobenzene, dioxins & furans
- Lindane NARAP is being developed
- www.cec.org



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