

POPRC-7/5: Assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications

The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,

Taking note of decision SC-5/5, by which the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants established a work programme for the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to commission a technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications based on the terms of reference set out in annex I to the present decision and the outline¹ revised during its seventh meeting;
2. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc working group to undertake the activities requested in paragraphs 5 and 7 of decision SC-5/5 and agrees to work in accordance with the workplan set out in annex II to the present decision;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to collect from parties and observers the information outlined in decision SC-5/5 using a revised version of the questionnaire,² and to make it available for the working group;
4. *Invites* parties and observers in a position to do so to provide financial support for the implementation of the activities requested in decision SC-5/5.

Annex I to decision POPRC-7/5

Terms of reference for a technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications

Introduction

1. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties amended Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list therein perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts, and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF),³ and decided to undertake a work programme to provide guidance to parties on how best to restrict and eliminate the newly listed persistent organic pollutants.⁴
2. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered and endorsed the recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee developed pursuant to the work programme for newly listed persistent organic pollutants, including on risk reduction for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.⁵
3. To eliminate the production and use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF as swiftly as possible so as to avoid negative effects on human health and the environment, the Conference of the Parties requested the development of a technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications, also requesting the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to prepare recommendations on the basis of that paper.⁶

I. Content of the technical paper

4. The technical paper is intended to identify and assess alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications and to support the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in developing recommendations on the matter to be considered by the Committee at its eighth meeting, to be held from 15 to 19 October 2012.

1 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.7/INF/22, annex II.
2 Ibid., annex I.
3 Decision SC-4/17.
4 Decision SC-4/19.
5 UNEP/POPS/COP.5/15.
6 Decision SC-5/5.

5. The technical paper should include consideration of the following aspects of the substitution of PFOS, taking into account the general guidance on considerations related to alternatives and substitutes for listed persistent organic pollutants and candidate chemicals:⁷
- (a) Chemical identity and physicochemical property;
 - (b) Technical feasibility;
 - (c) Health and environmental effects;
 - (d) Cost-effectiveness;
 - (e) Efficacy;
 - (f) Availability;
 - (g) Accessibility;
 - (h) Social and economic considerations.
6. The technical paper should be based on information provided by parties and observers in response to a request by the Secretariat and any other relevant information.

II. Requirements for the consultant

7. Under the Secretariat's guidance, the consultant should develop a technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications, in accordance with the workplan set out in annex II to decision POPRC-7/5.
8. In producing the technical paper on the basis of the outline suggested by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the consultant should gather, compile and summarize all available information on alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications, including the information submitted by parties and observers in response to a request by the Secretariat.
9. The consultant should take due account of the general guidance on considerations related to alternatives and substitutes for listed persistent organic pollutants and candidate chemicals (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.5/10/Add.1) and the comments provided by the Committee when developing and revising the technical paper.
10. The consultant should have the following qualifications:
- (a) Extensive experience and expertise in the assessment and management of chemicals at the national and international levels;
 - (b) Knowledge, including the source of any information, of the use of PFOS in open applications and alternatives to PFOS;
 - (c) Good writing and communication skills in English.
11. The technical paper should be developed in accordance with the workplan set out in annex II to decision POPRC-7/5.

7 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.5/10/Add.1.

Annex II to decision POPRC-7/5

Workplan for the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications

Scheduled date	Interval from previous activity (weeks)	Activity
14 October 2011	-	The Committee establishes an ad hoc working group.
21 October 2011	<1	The Secretariat sends an invitation to parties and observers to submit information on alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications. The Secretariat commissions a technical paper based on the terms of reference adopted by the Committee at its seventh meeting by 25 November 2011.
9 January 2012	11	Parties and observers submit the information to the Secretariat. The Secretariat compiles the information, makes it available on the Convention website and forwards it to the consultant.
2 March 2012	7	The consultant completes the first draft of the technical paper. The Secretariat invites the working group to provide comments on the first draft of the technical paper by 16 March 2012.
16 March 2012	2	The working group members provide comments on the first draft of the technical paper.
5 April 2012	3	The consultant reviews the comments on the technical paper and completes the second draft and a compilation of responses to the comments. The Secretariat invites the working group, parties and observers to provide comments on the second draft of the technical paper by 22 June 2012.
8 June 2012	9	On the basis of the second draft of the technical paper, the chair and drafter of the working group prepare a draft recommendation on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications. The Secretariat invites the working group to provide comments on the draft recommendation by 22 June 2012.
22 June 2012	2	The working group members provide comments on the draft recommendation and final comments on the second draft of the technical paper.
6 July 2012	2	The working group chair and the drafter review the comments and complete the draft recommendation and a compilation of responses to the comments. The consultant reviews the final comments on the technical paper and completes the final draft and a compilation of responses to the comments.
9 July 2012	<1	The Secretariat sends the draft recommendation and the draft technical paper to the Division of Conference Services for editing and translation, where applicable.
27 August 2012	7	The Division of Conference Services returns the documents to the Secretariat in final form.
3 September 2012	<1	The Secretariat distributes the documents.
15–19 October 2012	6	Eighth meeting of the Committee. The Committee finalizes its recommendations on the basis of the technical paper for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.