



United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

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To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points
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Date: 4 December 2007

From: Donald Cooper
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants

File: KI/Annex F

Subject: Invitation to submit information specified in Annex F of the Stockholm
Convention to the POPs Review Committee

The third meeting of the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee took place on 19-23 November 2007 in Geneva. The report of the meeting will soon be available at the Convention web site
http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc_3/meetingdocs/default.htm.

The Committee has prepared the risk profiles in accordance with Annex E of the Convention, for the chemicals listed below for addition to Annexes A, B, and/or C of the Convention. The Committee had decided that the screening criteria in Annex D of the Convention had been fulfilled for these chemicals:

- Commercial octabromodiphenyl ether (proposed by the European Communities and the Member States that are Parties to the Convention);
- Pentachlorobenzene (proposed by the European Communities and the Member States that are Parties to the Convention);
- Short-chained chlorinated paraffins (proposed by the European Communities and the Member States that are Parties to the Convention);
- Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane (proposed by Mexico); and
- Beta hexachlorocyclohexane (proposed by Mexico).

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8 of the Convention, the Committee examined the risk profiles and decided that the chemicals (except for the short-chained chlorinated paraffins that will be reevaluated at its next meeting) are likely, as a result of their long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted.

The next step in the process is to prepare a risk management evaluation for the four chemicals, namely commercial octabromodiphenyl ether, pentachlorobenzene, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane and beta hexachlorocyclohexane. A draft outline of the risk management evaluation has been developed by the Committee (available at www.pops.int). The Convention provides that the risk management evaluation will include an analysis of the possible control measures, as well as the socio-economic considerations, and will take into account information to be submitted by the Parties and observers relating to the considerations specified in Annex F.

The committee will base its recommendations for listing on the information received from countries and the types of control measures which might be introduced for a chemical will dictate whether it is listed in Annex A (elimination), Annex B (restriction), and/or Annex C (unintentional production) of the Convention. Since possible control measures include the prohibition or severe restriction of production and use, the provision of accurate, high quality information, as described in the attached questionnaire, is a priority for the Committee's evaluation.

What information is required?

You are invited to submit information specified in Annex F and in so doing to consider the guidance provided in this letter, and the questionnaire with its explanatory notes.

The POPs Review Committee needs information that is supplementary to the information provided during previous stages in the review process (i.e., information relevant to Annex D and E). The proposals, evaluations and risk profiles are available at the Convention web site (www.pops.int). In addition, the Committee identified specific areas where information and data relevant to the chemicals under consideration would be particularly useful for the future process. Please see Annex attached to this letter for the specific information required for the chemicals herein.

On the basis of a chemical's risk profile and the risk management evaluation, referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7(a) or (8) of Article 8 of the Convention, the Committee shall recommend whether this chemical should be considered by the Conference of the Parties for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C. In its deliberation on the control measures, the Committee will also consider the needs for use and production exemptions identified in the information provided to it and thus your input is very important.

How to submit information?

A questionnaire with explanatory notes developed by the Committee is provided to facilitate the submission of information (attached as Annex II and also available at www.pops.int). You are kindly requested to complete the questionnaire (one for each chemical) providing clear and precise references for each source of information. Without the exact source of the information, the Committee will not be able to process it accordingly.

If the information is not readily available in the public literature, you may consider attaching the original source of information with your submission.

For specific information required for the process of preparing risk management evaluations (Annex I), you may provide a free text submission. Please make sure that the information provided is for the chemical of concern.

In relation to the confidentiality of the submitted information, please note that provisional confidentiality arrangements agreed upon by the Committee are available at our website.

We would be most grateful to receive the required information **in English no later than 5 February 2008**. Information in **any other UN official language** (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian) should be submitted **by 10 January 2008**. In addition, it would be greatly appreciated if you could submit it by email: ssc@pops.int.

Should this not be possible please forward hard copies or CD Rom to:

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
Att: POPs Review Committee
Ms. Fatoumata Keita Ouane
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11-13 chemin des Anémones
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If you have any further questions regarding this request or you would like to receive hard copies of the documents from the POPs Review Committee, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Fatoumata Keita Ouane (e-mail: fouane@pops.int; telephone +41 22 917 8161).

Attachment

Annex

Specific information required for the process of preparing a risk management evaluation in addition to Annex F information

For commercial octabromodiphenyl ether

When evaluating commercial octabromodiphenyl ether against the criteria contained in Annex D of the Convention and during the preparation of the risk profile as described in Annex E, there was a further need of information on octabromodiphenyl ether and nonabromodiphenyl ether related to risk estimations and bioaccumulation, including the environmental and health relevance of debromination. The Committee invited the intersessional working group on commercial octabromodiphenyl ether to explore the information and if appropriate revise the risk profile for consideration by the Committee at its fourth meeting. Therefore, in addition to Annex F information, the Committee is seeking:

- Information on octa-BDE and nona-BDE related to risk estimation and bioaccumulation
- Information on quantitative assessments of the role of debromination
- Toxicological and ecotoxicological information for the commercial mixture and its components

For pentachlorobenzene

At its third meeting of the POPs Review Committee, it was noted that there were information gaps in the risk profile regarding environmental burden caused by intentional use and unintentional releases of pentachlorobenzene. It was discussed that the comparison of exposure and effect data would provide a more complete basis for decision-making on the relative risk posed by a substance and such information is particularly important with a substance like pentachlorobenzene that has both intended uses and unintentional sources. Quantitative data would provide useful understanding of the toxicity of the chemical and enable a clearer estimation of the costs and benefits that might be expected from listing it. Therefore, in addition to seeking information under the headings listed in Annex F information, the Committee is seeking:

- Information related to environmental burden caused by intentional use of pentachlorobenzene
- Information related to environmental burden caused by unintentional releases of pentachlorobenzene