



**ECOS-DOD Emerging Contaminants  
Task Group  
Meeting Summary  
June 20-21, 2007  
Atlanta, Georgia**



**In attendance:**

Henry Abadin, ATSDR  
Mark Anderson, Stateside Associates  
Alex Beehler, Department of Defense  
Kim Brown, Navy- NAVFAC HQ  
Bill Cibulas, ATSDR  
Mary Cooke, U.S. EPA (by teleconference)  
Shannon Cunniff, Department of Defense  
Michael Dourson, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment  
Bruce Fowler, ATSDR  
Lia Gaizick, U.S. Army Environmental Command  
Malcolm Garg, Army HQ/ODEP  
Rosalind M. Green, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals  
Carolyn Hanson, Environmental Council of the States  
Gerald Hardy, Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
Jake Hegeman, Stateside Associates  
Jan Larkin, Department of Defense  
Richard Mach, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment)  
Jeffery Moran, Arkansas Department of Health  
Gary Moran, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Rick Moss, California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Eric Noack, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
Jennifer Roberts, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Neil Sass, Alabama Department of Public Health  
Rita Tallini, ATSDR  
Michael Wade, California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Paul Yaroschak, Department of Defense  
Baha Zarah, Air Force Western Regional Environmental Office

**Meeting Summary**

Task Group co-chairs Eric Noack (Nevada DEP) and Shannon Cunniff (DoD), welcomed the Group to Atlanta and gave a brief overview of the Task Group's activities since the last meeting in June 2006. In particular, they noted that several of the Group's work products have come to completion. All Work Group products to-date have been developed in response to their identification as a priority for Task Group action at the November 2005 Emerging Contaminants Forum. This meeting was an opportunity to review these products and determine additional steps to be taken by the Task Group moving forward.

Following the introduction, the Group discussed both the completed EC work products as well as those under development:

### **State Survey on Emerging Contaminants**

Following its prioritization at the 2005 Emerging Contaminants Forum, the Task Group undertook the development of an online EC survey in spring 2006. The final survey was released to State Environmental Commissioners in August 2006 and their Public Health counterparts in September 2006 with the purpose of gathering information on how states are identifying and responding to emerging contaminants. 38 states responded to the survey, the results of which were summarized and published on the ECOS website in January 2007.

At this meeting the Group discussed the survey results and what further steps might be taken. The Group noted that no “new” ECs were identified in the Survey, but that it serves a useful purpose in helping to expand dialogue regarding ECs to states not previously involved in the Task Group. Participants commented that enhanced EC communication, like that initiated by the survey, could also take place through other channels, perhaps along the lines of DoD’s *ECs in the News* monthly summary that it uses to share information within DoD. The possibility of using the Alliance for Risk Assessment tools or even funding the Alliance’s development and management of EC information was discussed after Dr. Dourson’s presentation. The Group agreed to explore these possibilities further at a later date. The survey is referenced in the proposed EC resolution to be considered at the September 2007 ECOS meeting.

### **DoD/State Communication for Emerging Contaminants Issue Paper**

Risk Communication was another priority issue identified at the 2005 Emerging Contaminants Forum. To this end, in February 2006, the Task Group began development of a compendium of risk communication resources and a series of guiding risk communication principles. The principles represent the Work Group’s recommendations for state and federal stakeholders conducting risk communication, whether at the internal, interagency, or public level. The principles and resources were completed in time for review by the ECOS Commissioners at the August 2006 annual meeting. At the Atlanta meeting, the Group determined that a final review would be useful and requested that Work Group members submit any final comments on the document by July 10. The principles are referenced in the proposed EC resolution to be considered at the September 2007 ECOS meeting.

### **Selection of Toxicity Values/Criteria for Risk Assessment in the Absence of IRIS Values Issue Paper**

This Issue Paper was developed to provide recommendations on the identification and selection of toxicity values for those chemicals for which an Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) toxicity value is not available. Risk Assessment was a priority issue identified at the 2005 Emerging Contaminants Forum. Development of the paper began in February 2006 with a draft released to the States for comment in September. The drafting team reviewed comments received and posted the final paper on the ECOS and EPA websites in April 2007. At this meeting, the group noted that it is important that Tier II (PPRTV) values be made publicly available by EPA as the paper endorses their

use in the absence of an IRIS value. Additionally, comments were made that in some cases, toxicity values may be available that are more current than an IRIS value. In this situation, the group commented that the use of a Tier I (IRIS) value should not supersede a newer Tier II or III value. Participants recommended that the co-chairs draft a letter to EPA expressing this concern. The paper's recommendations are referenced in the proposed EC resolution to be considered at the September 2007 ECOS meeting.

#### **Initiation of Actions and Funding for Emerging Contaminants Issue Paper**

This paper explores the situations where DoD action may be taken requiring the use of funds, especially for actions not previously identified in budgets or where it is not yet clear what concentration may trigger site characterization or cleanup. It also examines some key conditions, considerations, statutory authorities, or criteria that could be used to evaluate potential response actions with a related expenditure of funds. This paper was initiated in February 2006 and underwent development throughout the year through a drafting team composed of State, EPA and DoD representatives. At this meeting, Paul Yaroschak (DoD) updated the Group on the paper's development and noted that DoD and EPA are currently working to address some final issues in the paper. State participants suggested that they be more involved in this discussion, leading to the Group recommending that State Task Group members expand their participation to help completion of the paper. Jennifer Roberts and Rick Moss agreed to collaborate on the development of consensus language to facilitate this. They will complete their draft by the end of July. Once, State, EPA and DoD drafters reach consensus, the paper will be redistributed for Group review.

#### **Proposed ECOS Resolution: "Encouraging States, DoD, and USEPA to Develop and use the work products of the Emerging Contaminants Task Group"**

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the draft resolution in support of the Task Group's Work Products that will be considered by the ECOS membership at the Annual Meeting this September. The resolution affirms the support of the ECOS membership for the Group's work to-date and encourages States, DoD and USEPA to use the products to address future EC issues.

#### **Presentation on the Alliance for Risk Assessment**

In addition to the review of Task Group Work Products, day one of the meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Michael Dourson of Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) on the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) (presentation attached). ARA is a collaborative effort of organizations dedicated to supporting public health protection by improving the process and efficiency of risk assessment, and increasing the capacity for developing risk information to meet growing demand. The Task Group was interested in learning more about ARA and requested copies of the presentation to share with their colleagues. The Group also discussed the idea of using existing ARA resources and expertise to generate a quarterly report on ECs and risk issues.

