

ECOS Cross-Media Committee

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http://ecos.org/section/committees/cross_media

Recent Accomplishments

TSCA Reform– In Aug. 2010, ECOS passed a policy resolution supporting reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) so that EPA can better ensure chemicals are safe.

Dental Amalgam– In 2008 and 2009, EPA used a non-regulatory approach for addressing mercury pollution from dental amalgam and did not consult with the states regarding this approach. In March 2010, ECOS began urging EPA to require dental facilities to use amalgam separators and best management practices. This involved ECOS passing a policy resolution and giving testimony to Congress. In Oct. 2010, EPA announced it would regulate dental facilities by 2013. EPA staffers have acknowledged that ECOS involvement was influential for changing the agency's position on this issue.

Mercury Export Ban/ International Mercury Treaty– ECOS advocated for the Mercury Export Ban in 2007. The bill was signed into law in 2008. ECOS urged the State Department to push for an international mercury treaty in late 2008 and the UN recently decided to pursue a treaty largely because of new support from the United States in early 2009.

Nanomaterials– In Oct. 2009, the committee secured a meeting with White House Office of Science and Technology Policy personnel and other federal officials to discuss state concerns regarding potential health risks from nanomaterials. This effort has improved state-federal communications on this issue.

Nuclear Cleanup Budgets– In March 2010, ECOS passed a resolution urging the Department of Energy to request annual budgets from Congress large enough to meet their cleanup agreements at nuclear weapon sites. In Feb. 2011, the agency announced a fiscal year 2012 budget request with an increase of \$200M for environmental management over the previous year's request, arguing the increased funds are necessary for meeting cleanup obligations.

Other Policies– The Committee has contributed to 19 policy resolutions currently on the books.

Reports– The Committee has contributed to recently-published reports on the following topics: emerging contaminants, disposal of radioactive waste, and natural resource damage assessment.

Issues of Interest

Chemicals Management, Toxics (Special Focus on Mercury), Emerging Contaminants, Pesticides, Pharmaceuticals, Nanomaterials, Pollution Prevention, Product Stewardship, Green Chemistry, Design-for-the-Environment, Cross-Office Collaborations, Innovative Programming, Cleanup of Federal Facilities (Hazardous, Radiological, and Munitions Waste Cleanups at Defense Sites and Nuclear Weapon Sites), Sustainability of Defense Sites (Energy-Efficiency), Long-term Stewardship of Sites, Dept of Defense Reimbursement of State Oversight Activities, Formerly Used Defense Sites