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Revised Risk Management Strategy for Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs)

Public comment period March 28, 2009 to May 27, 2009

Background

Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are a class of substances that are used as flame retardants in a wide variety of products.

Ecological and human health screening assessments were published for PBDEs under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, 1999 (CEPA 1999) in 2006. Included in these screening assessments are seven PBDE congener groups (tetraBDE, pentaBDE, hexaBDE, heptaBDE, octaBDE, nonaBDE and decaBDE) that are contained in three commercial PBDE mixtures (PentaBDE, OctaBDE and DecaBDE).

The ecological screening assessment report concludes that PBDEs are entering the environment in a quantity or concentration or under conditions that have or may have an immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment or its biological diversity: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/substances/ese/eng/SA/assessments.cfm>.

In December 2006, tetraBDE, pentaBDE, hexaBDE, heptaBDE, octaBDE, nonaBDE and decaBDE congeners were added to Schedule 1 of CEPA 1999.

On March 28, 2009, the results of a draft State of the Science report on decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE) were published in *Canada Gazette*, Part I. The purpose of the report is to provide an updated analysis of the bioaccumulation and environmental transformation of decabromodiphenyl ether, to be considered in the context of the information and analyses already published in the final screening assessment on PBDEs.

The draft report concludes that decaBDE may accumulate to high and problematic levels in organisms, and may transform into bioaccumulative and/or potentially bioaccumulative substances. In addition to risk management measures that are either under development or have already been implemented for PBDEs, the results of the State of the Science report provide justification for a revision to the Risk Management Strategy for PBDEs.

Revised Risk Management Strategy

The revised strategy broadens the application of control measures currently under development to restrict PBDEs in manufactured and imported products to include restrictions on nona- and decaBDE (see 3(ii)). The revised Strategy consists of the following main elements:

1. The final *Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers Regulations* (PBDE Regulations) came into force on June 19, 2008. The PBDE Regulations prohibit the manufacture in Canada of all seven PBDEs assessed under CEPA (tetraBDE, pentaBDE, hexaBDE, heptaBDE, octaBDE, nonaBDE and decaBDE); and prohibit the use, sale, and import of raw materials (commercial mixtures, resins, polymers) containing PBDEs meeting the criteria for virtual elimination (tetraBDE, pentaBDE, hexaBDE) under CEPA 1999. In summary, these Regulations effectively prohibit the manufacture and use of the PentaBDE and OctaBDE commercial mixtures in Canada. **[Canada Gazette, Part II: Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers Regulations \(PDF\)](#)**
2. **[A proposed Performance Agreement with industry, which aims to manage and reduce releases of DecaBDE from its use in plastic and textile manufacturing facilities.](#)**
3. Development of control measures under CEPA 1999 to restrict PBDEs in manufactured and imported products. The control measures aim to:
 - (i) prohibit the manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale and import of all new products containing tetra-, penta-, hexa-, hepta-, and octaBDE at concentrations greater than 0.1% by weight, and;
 - (ii) prohibit the manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale and import of specified new electronic and electrical (EEE) products containing nona-, and decaBDE at concentrations greater than 0.1% by weight.
4. Development of Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines for PBDEs.
5. Development of a management strategy for PBDE-containing products at end-of-life.
6. Monitoring Canadians' exposure to PBDEs and concentrations in the environment.

For reference, the current (December 2006) version of the Risk Management Strategy can be obtained at the following website address: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=E47854AE-8461-4A8A-8419-B86D0A76DF8E>

Public comment period March 28, 2009 to May 27, 2009.

The 60-day public comment periods for the draft State of the Science Report and revised Strategy, begins March 28, 2009 and ends May 27, 2009. Information on how to submit comments on the draft State of the Science report is provided in the Canada Gazette notice.

The full text of the draft State of the Science report is available at:

Draft State of the Science Report on the Bioaccumulation and Transformation of Decabromodiphenyl Ether (PDF)

Copies of the draft State of the Science report on decaBDE can also be obtained by contacting **existing.substances.existantes@ec.gc.ca**

Environment Canada invites all interested and affected parties to provide comments on the revised Risk Management Strategy. Consultation sessions may also be scheduled based on demand. All comments received will inform the development of control instruments under CEPA 1999.

Please send your written comments on the revised Risk Management Strategy by May 27, 2009 to the following mail or email addresses:

Mail:

Executive Director
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please type "Consultation on PBDE Revised Risk Management Strategy" in the subject line of your e-mail message.

If you have any questions on the Risk Management Strategy, please contact:

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