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8 April 2010

**To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points
Stockholm Convention National Focal Points**

Cc: Representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva

Subject: Reminder - Invitation to submit additional information on short-chained chlorinated paraffins as specified in Annex E of the Stockholm Convention

Dear Colleagues,

This is to remind you of our earlier correspondence dated 28 October 2009, in which the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention invited Parties and observers to submit additional information as specified in Annex E of the Convention regarding the revised risk profile prepared for short-chained chlorinated paraffins.

Short-chained chlorinated paraffins was proposed by the European Community and its member States that are Parties to the Convention for addition to Annexes A, B and/or C of the Convention, and the Committee had already decided that the screening criteria in Annex D of the Convention had been fulfilled.

At its fifth meeting, which took place on 12-16 October 2009, in Geneva, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee had before it a revised draft risk profile on short-chained chlorinated paraffins prepared at its fourth meeting (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.5/2) in accordance with Annex E of the Convention.

The concluding statement of the revised draft risk profile states: "Currently, concentrations of short-chained chlorinated paraffins in remote areas are lower than known concentrations of concern. Available monitoring data do not show that the environmental levels are increasing in concentrations at this time. Given demonstrated long range transport and the ability to accumulate, there is potential for increases should releases continue or increase". The report of the meeting is available on the Committee's website: <http://www.pops.int/poprc/>.

The Committee decided to invite Parties and observers to submit additional information as specified in Annex E to facilitate the assessment of **future trends in environmental concentrations and the potential for adverse effects in humans and the environment**.

The Chair and drafter of the draft risk profile for short-chained chlorinated paraffins will review the information submitted by Parties and observers and complete the revised draft for consideration at the sixth meeting of the Committee, in October 2010.

What information is required?

You are invited to submit the following additional information as specified in Annex E of the Convention:

- (a) Updated production data;
- (b) Inventories of uses;
- (c) Information on releases such as discharges, losses and emissions;

- (d) Additional information that could assist the Committee with its evaluation, including on toxicity, ecotoxicity, and on national and international risk evaluations.

How to submit information?

A form with a general guidance and explanatory notes developed by the Committee is contained in the annex to this letter to facilitate the submission of information. The form is also available on the Convention's website in the six official languages of the United Nations. You may also provide a free submission.

Concerning the submission of confidential information, please note that the code of practice for the treatment of confidential information in the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee adopted by decision SC-3/9 of the Conference of the Parties is available on the Convention's website.

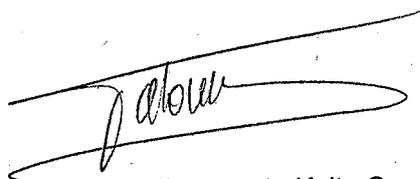
We would be grateful to receive your submission **in English before 20 May 2010**. Information in other United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian) should be submitted as soon as possible.

The information should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, preferably by email:

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
Att: POPs Review Committee
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 chemin des anémones
CH-1219, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41) 22 917 8098
Email: ssc@pops.int

If you have any further questions regarding this invitation or if you would like to receive hard copies of the documents from the POPs Review Committee, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kei Ohno (e-mail: kohn@pops.int; telephone +41 22 917 8201).

Yours sincerely,



Fatoumata Keita Ouane
Head, Scientific and Technical Section
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Annex

I. General guidance on submission of information specified in Annex E

A. Procedure

1. In accordance with Article 8 of the Convention, a Party may submit a proposal for listing a chemical in Annexes A, B and/or C. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee examines the proposal and applies the screening criteria specified in Annex D to the Convention. The Committee's evaluation of the chemical against the criteria of Annex D is set out in an annex to the report of the meeting of the Committee at which it is undertaken. The meeting report is made available on the Convention's website (www.pops.int).

2. When the Committee is satisfied that the screening criteria set out in Annex D have been fulfilled, it invites Parties and observers to submit the information specified in Annex E of the Convention. The Committee then prepares a draft risk profile based on the submitted information. The draft risk profile is set out in an addendum to the report of the meeting at which it is adopted by the Committee and is made available on the Convention's website (www.pops.int).

B. How to submit information

3. Annex E information may be submitted to the Secretariat using a form provided by the Committee. The form may be obtained from the Convention focal points and from the Convention website. It is preferable that Annex E information be submitted in electronic format and in English; information may be submitted, however, in the other official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish) and in hard copy. Please note that if you are completing the form electronically, the size of the boxes will adjust to the amount of text inserted and, thus, a complete form may be longer than the current number of pages. If you are completing a paper hard copy of the form, please include additional pages as required. The deadline for submitting information is indicated in the letter from the secretariat inviting Parties and observers to provide information.

C. Reminders to those submitting information

4. Parties and observers providing Annex E information should do so in a concise manner with clear and precise references. If the information on a specific item is not available, please so indicate. The information does not have to be national in nature; information from international source may be cited.

5. If possible and relevant, provide additional information to support the Committee's scientific considerations in preparing the risk profile such as study methods, tissue concentrations for comparative purposes and citations including original copies of papers that are not readily available in the public domain. Information which is not peer-reviewed may still be useful for the Committee.

6. The explanatory notes under each item have been developed by the Committee to guide and assist submissions; they have no legal status.

D. Guidance for information collection

7. A guidance document entitled "Handbook for effective participation in the work of the POPs Review Committee" outlines the methodology for the identification and compilation of information required by the Committee. The handbook is available on the Convention website and hard copies may be obtained upon request to the Secretariat.

8. It is suggested that each Party establish an ad hoc working group, perhaps building on the committee established to develop the Party's national implementation plan, to assist the national focal point to collect and submit relevant information.

9. Other potential sources of information are listed below:

(a) National expertise (e.g., universities, research centres, non-governmental organizations, trade unions);

(b) Industries (e.g. producers, importers, suppliers, downstream users);

(c) International literature;

(d) Chemicals databases