

**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

التفاهة اسكوهولم بشأن الملوثات العضوية الثابتة • 关于持久性有机污染物的斯德哥尔摩公约 • Convention de Stockholm sur les polluants organiques persistants
Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes • Стокгольмская конвенция о стойких органических загрязнителях



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Reference: POPRC
Date: 5 December 2011

Subject: Information requests in follow up to the decisions taken by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its seventh meeting

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that at its seventh meeting held in Geneva from 10 to 14 October 2011, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee agreed on the decisions contained in annex I to the report of the meeting, document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.7/19. The report is available on the Convention's website: www.pops.int/poprc. Many of the decisions included invitations to Parties and others to provide information.

This letter is to solicit information requested in the decisions adopted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee. To facilitate response, attached are the individual requests organized according to the decisions. The requests attached to this letter also include the request sent to Parties by the letter dated 21 October 2011. The information regarding each decision can be submitted separately, particularly since their deadlines for submission vary.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kei Ohno, Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention (e-mail: kohnno@pops.int; tel. +41-22-917-8201; fax: +41-22-917-8098).

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

Yours sincerely/

Jim Willis
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- 1) Follow up to the decisions taken by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
- 2) Formats for submission of information

**To: Stockholm Convention official contact points
Stockholm Convention national focal points**

Cc: Representatives of permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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Follow up to the decisions taken by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its seventh meeting

(1) Request for information on hexabromocyclododecane

Decision: POPRC-7/1: Hexabromocyclododecane

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Committee adopted the risk management evaluation for hexabromocyclododecane, and decided, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 8 of the Convention, to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider listing hexabromocyclododecane in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention. The Committee invited the ad hoc working group on hexabromocyclododecane that prepared the risk management evaluation to collect further information on hexabromocyclododecane and agreed to review the additional information and consider at its eighth meeting whether to specify the annex to the Convention and possible exemptions to be considered by the Conference of the Parties in listing of hexabromocyclododecane.

The risk management evaluation for hexabromocyclododecane is set out in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.7/19/Add.1 and is available at the Convention's website: www.pops.int/poprc.

Request:

- Parties and observers are invited to submit to the Secretariat the following information on hexabromocyclododecane:
 - (a) Chemical alternatives to hexabromocyclododecane, especially in expanded polystyrene or extruded polystyrene foam applications, in terms of their availability, cost, efficacy, efficiency and health and environmental impact, especially with regard to their persistent organic pollutant properties;
 - (b) Production and use of hexabromocyclododecane especially for expanded polystyrene or extruded polystyrene foam applications;

Method of submission:

- Please use **form-1: hexabromocyclododecane**, attached to the letter and available at: www.pops.int/poprc.
- Please submit the information to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohno@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submission:

- **1 April 2012**

(2) Request for information on chlorinated naphthalenes

Decision: POPRC-7/2: Chlorinated naphthalenes

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Committee examined the proposal by the European Union and its member States parties to the Stockholm Convention to list chlorinated naphthalenes in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention and applied the screening criteria specified in Annex D to the Convention. The Committee decided, in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of Article 8 of the Convention, that it is satisfied that the screening criteria have been fulfilled for dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes and octachlorinated naphthalenes. The Committee established an ad hoc working group to review the proposal further and to prepare a draft risk profile in accordance with Annex E to the Convention, and invited parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat the information specified in Annex E before 9 January 2012.

By the letter from the Secretariat dated 21 October 2011, Parties and observers were invited to submit information specified in Annex E to the Convention for chlorinated naphthalenes.

Request:

- Parties and observers are invited to submit to the Secretariat the information specified in Annex E for chlorinated naphthalenes.

Method of submission:

- Please use **form-2: Annex E information**, attached to the letter and available at: www.pops.int/poprc.
- Please submit the information to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohn@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submission:

- **9 January 2012**

(3) Request for information on hexachlorobutadiene

Decision: POPRC-7/3: Hexachlorobutadiene

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Committee examined the proposal by the European Union and its member States parties to the Stockholm Convention to list hexachlorobutadiene in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention and applied the screening criteria specified in Annex D to the Convention. The Committee decided, in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of Article 8 of the Convention, that it is satisfied that the screening criteria have been fulfilled for hexachlorobutadiene. The Committee established an ad hoc working group to review the proposal further and to prepare a draft risk profile in accordance with Annex E to the Convention, and invited parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat the information specified in Annex E before 9 January 2012.

By the letter from the Secretariat dated 21 October 2011, Parties and observers were invited to submit information specified in Annex E to the Convention for hexabromocyclododecane.

Request:

- Parties and observers are invited to submit to the Secretariat the information specified in Annex E for hexachlorobutadiene.

Method of submission:

- Please use **form-2, Annex E information**, attached to the letter and available at: www.pops.int/poprc.
- Please submit the information to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohno@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submission:

- **9 January 2012**

(4) Request for information on endosulfan

Decision: POPRC-7/4: Assessment of alternatives to endosulfan

Background:

By decision SC-5/4, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention established a work programme to support the development and deployment of alternatives to endosulfan. Parties and observers had provided information on chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan for the uses identified as specific exemptions in Annex A to the Convention before 31 July 2011, and the Secretariat forwarded the information to the Committee.

At its seventh meeting, the Committee reviewed the information and identified potential gaps in that information. The Committee decided to establish an ad hoc working group to undertake the activities requested in paragraph 3 of the work programme set out in the annex to decision SC-5/4, and requested the Secretariat to collect from parties and observers the information to facilitate intersessional work outlined in annexes II and III to decision POPRC-7/4.

Request:

- Parties and observers are invited to submit to the Secretariat the information on chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan for the uses identified as specific exemptions in Annex A to the Convention.

Method of submission:

- Please use **form-3: alternatives to endosulfan**, attached to the letter and available at: www.pops.int/poprc.
- Please submit the information to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohno@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submission:

- **10 February 2012**

(5) Request for information on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications

Decision: POPRC-7/5: Assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications

Background:

By decision SC-5/5, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention established a work programme for the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications, and requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to commission a technical paper based on terms of reference to be prepared by the Committee.

At its seventh meeting, the Committee developed the terms of reference for the technical paper as set out in annex I to decision POPRC-7/5 and established an ad hoc working group to undertake the activities requested in paragraphs 5 and 7 of decision SC-5/5. The Committee requested the Secretariat to collect from parties and observers the information outlined in decision SC-5/5.

By the letter from the Secretariat dated 21 October 2011, Parties and observers were invited to submit information on alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open application.

Request:

- Parties and observers are invited to submit to the Secretariat the following aspects of information on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications:
 - (a) Technical feasibility;
 - (b) Health and environmental effects;
 - (c) Cost-effectiveness;
 - (d) Efficacy;
 - (e) Availability;
 - (f) Accessibility.

Method of submission:

- Please use **form-4: alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid in open applications**, attached to the letter and available at: www.pops.int/poprc.
- Please submit the information to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohno@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submissions:

- **31 January 2012**

(6) Request for comments on guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives

Decision: POPRC-7/6: Guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Committee considered the comments on the guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives received from parties and observers in accordance with decision POPRC-6/5 and revised the guidance based on those comments. The Committee invited parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat comments on the revised guidance and experience in replacing perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives for consideration at the Committee's eighth meeting.

The revised guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives is set out in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/13/Add.3/Rev.1 and is available at the Convention's website: www.pops.int/poprc.

Request:

- Parties and observers are invited to submit the following information to the Secretariat:
 - (a) Comments on the revised guidance document, including additional information on the health and environmental effects of possible alternatives mentioned therein;
 - (b) Experience in replacing perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives with additional alternative products and/or processes, including information about their health and environmental effects;

Method of submission:

- There is no format for submission.
- Please submit your comments and experiences to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohno@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submission:

- **31 July 2012**

(7) Request for information on brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)

Decision: POPRC-7/7: Evaluation of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and work programme on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

Background:

By decision SC-5/5, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention invited parties to submit information on their experiences in implementing the Committee's recommendations on brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2, and requested the Secretariat to compile the information received for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

By decision SC-5/8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, with advice from relevant experts, to develop a process to enable the Conference of the Parties at its sixth and every second ordinary meeting thereafter to evaluate parties' progress in achieving the ultimate objective of eliminating BDEs and to review the continued need for the specific exemption for those chemicals in accordance with paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention.

The Committee considered the two decisions and requested the Secretariat to collect from parties the information on BDEs pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention and on their experience in implementing the Committee's recommendations on BDEs and PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.

Request:

- Parties and observers are invited to submit the information on BDEs pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention and on their experience in implementing the Committee's recommendations on BDEs and PFOS, its salts and PFOSF set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2.

Method of submission:

- Please use **form-5: format for the evaluation of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and work programme on brominated diphenyl ethers and on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride**, attached to the letter and available at: www.pops.int/poprc).
- Please submit the information to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohno@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submissions:

- **31 July 2012**

(8) Request on pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters

Reference: Information on transformation of pentachlorophenol to pentachloroanisole and proposal by Japan to fill information gaps¹

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Committee examined the proposal by the European Union and its member States parties to the Stockholm Convention to list pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention and applied the screening criteria specified in Annex D to the Convention.

The Committee agreed that pentachlorophenol alone did not meet the criteria set out in Annex D to the Convention but that its metabolite pentachloroanisole did. There was disagreement, however, as to whether the two chemicals should be jointly considered and moved to the Annex E evaluation stage, since pentachlorophenol could not be verified as the sole source of pentachloroanisole in the environment and there was uncertainty regarding the extent of transformation from pentachlorophenol and other possible precursors to pentachloroanisole and from the latter to pentachlorophenol.

The Committee agreed to defer its consideration of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters until its eighth meeting and to include the draft decision on the substance in annex II to the present report, enclosed in square brackets to indicate a lack of consensus on certain items. It also agreed to establish an intersessional working group, with the mandate, among other things, to review studies on the fate and transport of pentachlorophenol and pentachloroanisole and to prepare material for consideration at the Committee's eighth meeting.

Request:

- Interested parties are invited to undertake the following activities and submit to the Secretariat the information on the outcomes:
 - (a) To initiate experiments under conditions relevant to the environment;
 - (b) To collect monitoring data on pentachlorophenol and pentachloroanisole, in particular from pentachlorophenol-contaminated sites, as such data could provide information on what happens in the environment under actual conditions.
- Such experiments and compilation of monitoring data should be initiated without delay so that they can be taken into account by the Committee at its eighth meeting.

Method of submission:

- There is no form for submission.
- Please submit the information to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohno@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submissions:

- **31 July 2012**

¹ Report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its seventh meeting, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.7/19, Annex III.

(9) Request on short-chained chlorinated paraffins

Reference: Proposal on next steps for short-chained chlorinated paraffins²

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Committee discussed the draft risk profile and the proposed conclusions, but was unable to take a decision because of uncertainties in applying the criteria specified in Annex E to the Stockholm Convention.

At its seventh meeting, the Committee discussed the application of the criteria specified in Annex E to the Convention to short-chained chlorinated paraffins and considered the outcome of the case study on toxicological interactions of chlorinated paraffins. The Committee agreed to establish an ad hoc working group to revise the relevant parts of the draft risk profile to incorporate information on toxicological interactions of chlorinated paraffins for consideration by the Committee at its eighth meeting, and to compile issues and principles to be applied in the interpretation of the Annex E criteria for consideration by the Committee at its eighth meeting.

Request:

- Parties and observers are invited to submit comments on the approach to developing a discussion paper on issues and principles to be applied in the interpretation of the Annex E criteria.

Method of submission:

- Please provide your comments on the document “**Approach to developing a discussion paper on issues and principles to be applied in the interpretation of the Annex E criteria**”, attached to the letter and available at: www.pops.int/poprc.
- Please submit the information to the Secretariat by e-mail (ssc@pops.int / kohno@pops.int) or by Fax (+41-22-917-8098).

Deadline for submission:

- **30 January 2012**

This is the end of the requests. If you have any questions, please contact:

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² Report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its seventh meeting, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.7/19, Annex IV.