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File: POPRC/Alternative guidance

Date: 13 December 2010

Subject: Invitation to submit comments and additional information on the guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives

At its fourth meeting in May 2009, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention decided to amend Annex B of the Convention to list perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride.

In light of this amendment and in response to the needs expressed by Parties, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee has developed guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives. The guidance was endorsed by the sixth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, which took place on 10-15 October 2010. The advance copy of the guidance is attached to this letter (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/13/Add.3). The report of the sixth meeting of the committee as well as the guidance document will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations at the Committee's website: <http://www.pops.int/poprc/>.

The Committee agreed that the guidance should be revised regularly as necessary to take into account available information on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives. The Committee invited Parties and observers to submit any additional information on the following items:

1. Comments on the guidance document (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/13/Add.3);
2. Additional information on the health and environmental effects of possible alternatives mentioned in the document;
3. Experience in replacing perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives with additional alternative products and/or processes, including information about their health and environmental effects.

The information will be presented to the seventh meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in October 2011, which will consider the information and the possibility of initiating the updating of the guidance document.

You are therefore invited to review the attached document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/13/Add.3 and provide the information mentioned above **before 30 June 2011** by e-mail to: ssc@pops.int and kohno@pops.int.

To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points
Stockholm Convention National Focal Points
Observers to the Stockholm Convention

Cc: Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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Should this not be possible, please forward hard copies to:

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kei Ohno (e-mail: kohno@pops.int, telephone +41 22 917 8201).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cooper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald Cooper
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants