



November 12, 2001

Ms. Bette Meek  
Chief  
Health Canada  
Priority Substances Section  
Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0L2

By Fax: (613) 954-2486

Dear Ms. Meek:

**Re: NGOs Request for information on Domestic Substances List**

We are submitting this letter as our request for information on Health Canada's activities regarding the development of a categorization and screening framework for Canada's Domestic Substances List (DSL).

As part of the new *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA '99), there is a requirement for the Ministers of the Health and of the Environment to "categorize" and to "screen" the substances listed on the DSL and to determine whether they are "toxic" as defined in Section 65 of the CEPA 99 or are capable of becoming toxic.

Currently, as members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to Environment Canada, we are developing a categorization and screening scheme for the organic substances on the DSL. In our view, the importance of developing an effective framework that will assist in determining the fate of toxic substances in Canada is paramount. Such a process will have direct relevance to the management of toxic substances in Canada. Therefore as participating members of the TAG, we recognize that there are areas within the TAG process that may benefit from an improve level of coordination between EC and Health Canada activities including, Heath Canada's active participation in the TAG meetings and providing regular updates on Health Canada's categorization process.

Since public participation is not part of the Health Canada's DSL process, we are requesting information on Health Canada's activities on the DSL's categorization and screening process. As part of this request, we would like to receive documentation listing relevant reports and copies of briefing notes and meeting minutes produced by Health Canada on the topic of DSL and the development of a categorization and screening framework.

Since the TAG is anticipated to complete its process by December 2001, the timeframe is tight. Therefore, we would like a response to our request by November 30, 2001. We will contact you over the next few days to follow-up on our request. Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,

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