

MEDIA RELEASE

Government must take action on suspected reproductive and developmental toxins

Proposals lack protection from industrial emissions and consumer products

Toronto – The federal program to manage toxic chemicals in Canada is an ambitious and groundbreaking program, but it is failing to protect Canadians from chemicals associated with toxic effects on human reproduction and child development, according to Canadian public interest organizations: the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, Environmental Defence, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Environmental Health Association of Québec, Ecojustice, Breast Cancer Action Montreal, Campaign for Pesticide Reduction! Winnipeg, Learning Disabilities Association of Canada, Reach for Unbleached and STORM Coalition. Under the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP), the government recently published a review of 19 high priority chemicals (under Batch 3 of the Industry Challenge) and proposed management actions for only four of the nineteen.

“The government’s own evaluations concluded that chemicals like Pigment Red 3 or 2-MEA, used in many types of paints, glues, cleaning products and cosmetics, may cause reproductive and developmental damage in humans” states Fe de Leon, researcher at the Canadian Environmental Law Association. “At the end of the day, Canadian exposure to these chemicals will continue through industrial emissions and products that contain them. Health effects from exposure to these chemicals can happen even at very low levels of exposure, so the appropriate response to the evaluations has to be a prohibition on these chemicals being used in consumer products and industrial applications.

The four chemicals for which the scientific evidence shows associations with reproductive and developmental toxicity are Pigment Red 3; 2-methoxypropanol; Ethanol, 2-(2-methoxyethoxy)- (DEGME); and 2-Methoxyethanol acetate (2-MEA). These chemicals are used in a wide range of industrial applications, and consumer and cosmetic products that include: window cleaners, de-icers, paints, solvents, cleaning products, floor care products, brake fluids, inks in pens, oven cleaners, carpet and upholstery cleaners, rust removers and hard surface cleaners, perfumes, hair spray, skin creams and cleansers, pesticides, and food industry cleaners (see backgrounder).

Although government’s management proposals aim to add three of the four chemicals to the Cosmetic Ingredients Hotlist,¹ which lists restrictions or prohibitions of chemicals in cosmetic products, the groups are calling for regulatory action on their use in consumer products as the European Union has done, as well as require the prohibition on the use, sale, manufacture, import and disposal of these chemicals in industrial applications. A serious concern cited by the groups is that the evaluation reports conducted under the CMP do not address the exposure of these chemicals and their breakdown products beyond disposal.

“The government’s review of the evidence shows the need for finding safe alternatives for these chemicals” states Sandra Madray, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba. “One has to be concerned about our chronic and cumulative exposure to chemicals since they may undermine our reproductive health and our

¹ Cosmetic Ingredients Hotlist. Accessed at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/person/cosmet/info-ind-prof/_hot-list-critique/hotlist-liste-eng.php

children's healthy development. Because these products may be in the cleaners we use at home or in the creams that we apply to our bodies, there should be the urgency to remove them from these products. Our children, people with environmental sensitivities, and the elderly may be at a greater risk to these chemicals.”

“We don’t really know how much of these chemicals are entering our environment and our bodies because the assessments don’t consider all potential pathways to exposure, both before and after product disposal,” said Delores Broten of Reach for Unbleached.

2-MEA is classified as a Category 2 substance (may cause harm to the development of the human fetus and impair fertility at low doses) in Europe. Similarly, DEGME is banned in cosmetics in Europe and may also be regulated under the U.S. *Clean Air Act*. Pigment Red 3 is not approved for use in cosmetics in the U.S.

“When developmental toxicity data are available, the fetus in many cases is found to be the most sensitive to exposures, and the primary focus of scientific concern. Pregnant women use cosmetics and other consumer products that should not contain recognized developmental or reproductive toxicants.” states Barbara McElgunn of Learning Disabilities Association of Canada

“We should not be exposing our children to chemicals that might irreversibly undermine their development. We need these chemicals off our shelves, especially when they are used so widely in creams, nail polish, plastics, and paints. The prohibition of these chemicals is necessary if we are to protect our children's future.” states Rohini Peris of Environmental Health Association of Québec.

The government will finalize their evaluation on these chemicals within 6 months according to the timeframe for the Chemicals Management Plan.

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Backgrounder: Summary of uses and applications of substances that are suspected to cause reproductive and developmental effects in humans and are found to be toxic under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*

BACKGROUND

Summary of uses and applications of substances that are suspected to cause reproductive and developmental effects in humans and are found to be toxic under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*

Substance	CAS no.	Proposed Management Options	Quantity in Canada (import or manufactured) – data for 2006	Selected uses and applications
2-Naphthalenol, 1-[(4-methyl-2-nitrophenyl)azo]- (Pigment Red 3)	2425-85-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Add</i> chemical to Cosmetic Ingredients Hotlist² • <i>Provide</i> health and safety information and education materials for consumers regarding paint and coatings products 	Manufactured in Canada: 30,000 kg – 50,000 kg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as a pigment in industrial (e.g., metal tools or equipment, anti-rust proofing) and consumer paints • automotive industries, • industrial printing inks, • as a colourant in plastics, • pesticide products (e.g. anti-fouling paints), • nail polish, • bar soaps.
Ethanol, 2-(2-methoxyethoxy)- (Diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, DEGME)	111-77-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Add</i> to the Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist • <i>No additional investigations</i> on use patterns expected on other uses 	Imported: 1,000,000 – 10,000,000 kg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additive in jet fuel, • brake and hydraulic fluids (e.g. Products: Wagner Premium Brake Fluid (0-3%); Prestone Heavy Duty Brake Fluid),* • pesticides, • pulp and paper industry, • paint solvent (e.g. Products: Sherwin-Williams All Surface Enamel Latex High Gloss (4-5%); Sherwin-Williams All Surface Enamel Acrylic Latex Satin (3%); Sherwin-Williams Sher Cryl HPA High Performance Acrylic Gloss Coating, Tint (1%); Sherwin-Williams All Surface Enamel Latex High Gloss (5%)),* • printing inks, • chemical intermediate, • plasticizer manufacture, • textile industry, • floor care products (e.g. Products: Mop & Glo Floor

				<p>Shine (5.0%), Brilliance Floor Finish (2-5%); Rebound Floor Finish (<5%), Zep Tile and Terrazzo Cleaner (5-15%)),*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleaners and degreasers, • can end coatings used in food contact applications, • food industry cleaners, • windscreen washer fluids, • inks for some pens, • rust removers, • aluminium brighteners, • sealants, • paint and varnish removers, • skin creams and cleansers, • hairspray, • perfumes, • solvents for pharmaceutical manufacturing.
Ethanol, 2-methoxy-, acetate (2-methoxyethanol acetate, 2-MEA)	110-49-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Investigate</i> measures to reduce or eliminate the current use in Canada, and limit any future uses 	Reported below the threshold of 100 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nail polish, • dry cleaning treatments, • textile industry, • photographic film industry, • glues and adhesives, • paints, • as a solvent in waxes, nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate, gums, resins and oils, • food industry cleaner.
1-Propanol, 2-methoxy (2-methoxypropanol)	1589-47-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Add</i> to Cosmetics Ingredient Hotlist • <i>Limit</i> impurities of 2-methoxypropanol in PGME-formulated cosmetics. • <i>No</i> additional investigations of other uses 	Imported: 10,000-100,000 kg	<p>Found as an impurity in many consumer and cosmetic products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nail products containing PGME (e.g. nail enamel, nail polish remover), • hair products, • hair products containing PGME (e.g. conditioner, hair dye, hair spray) • eye products (e.g. false eyelash adhesive, solvent to remove false eyelashes, as these products). • pesticides, • solvents used in the manufacture of inks, lined varnishes and coatings (interior and exterior) in paperboard and plastic food packaging applications,

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • epoxy resins (e.g. coatings on the interior of railway hopper cars, farm storage bins and truck trailers to store or transport dry food products), • cleaners (e.g. for food plants, in rust remover), • chemical intermediate (e.g. propylene glycol methyl ether acetate -surface coatings, varnishes, paints and agricultural pesticides), • a solvent and/or coupling agent in various types of inks, cleaners (including automotive cleaners, window and oven cleaners, carpet and upholstery cleaners, rust removers and hard surface cleaners). • Found in other PGME-containing products (e.g. adhesives, electronics, non-structural caulking compounds and sealants, synthetic resins and rubber adhesives; plaster; and in products used for surface treatments; for wood protection; for waterproofing; for shoes and leather; in photographic chemicals; hydraulic brake fluids and lubricants; disinfectants; pickling solutions; and perfumes)
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Sources:

Environment Canada and Health Canada, August 2008. RISK MANAGEMENT SCOPE for 2-Naphthalenol, 1-[(4-methyl-2-nitrophenyl)azo]- (Pigment Red 3) Chemical Abstract Service Registry Number (CAS RN): 2425-85-6, Accessed at http://www.ec.gc.ca/substances/ese/eng/challenge/batch3/batch3_2425-85-6_rm.cfm

Environment Canada and Health Canada, August 2008. RISK MANAGEMENT SCOPE for Ethanol, 2-methoxy-, acetate (2-Methoxyethanol acetate, 2-MEA) Chemical Abstract Service Registry Number (CAS RN): 110-49-6. Accessed at http://www.ec.gc.ca/substances/ese/eng/challenge/batch3/batch3_110-49-6_rm.cfm

Environment Canada and Health Canada, August 2008. RISK MANAGEMENT SCOPE for Ethanol, 2-(2-methoxyethoxy)-(DEGME) Chemical Abstract Service Registry Number (CAS RN): 111-77-3. Accessed at http://www.ec.gc.ca/substances/ese/eng/challenge/batch3/batch3_111-77-3_rm.cfm

Environment Canada and Health Canada. August 2008 RISK MANAGEMENT SCOPE for 1-Propanol, 2-methoxy(2-methoxypropanol) Chemical Abstract Service Registry Number (CAS RN): 1589-47-5. Accessed at http://www.ec.gc.ca/substances/ese/eng/challenge/batch3/batch3_1589-47-5_rm.cfm

* Examples of Products sold in the U.S., see: Household Products Database. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed at <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm>