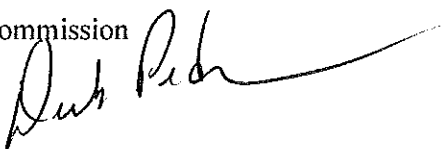


State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

**Date:** Nov. 16, 2012  
**To:** Environmental Quality Commission  
**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director   
**Subject:** Agenda item C, Informational item: DEQ Toxics Reduction Strategy update

**Purpose of item** This item will give a brief update on DEQ's Toxics Reduction Strategy and short-term implementation priorities, and provide an opportunity for the commission to provide input and direction on these recommendations. In addition, a panel of individuals from outside the agency will present information on activities they are working on that advance the objectives of the strategy.

**Why this is important** One of DEQ's strategic directions is to "protect Oregonians from toxic pollutants." Given that toxic chemicals can move readily between air, water and land environments and considering the immense number of these chemicals in commerce, DEQ determined that a more strategic and integrated approach to reducing toxic chemicals and pollutants in the environment is needed. This type of approach can help DEQ achieve individual toxics reduction program goals in a more effective and efficient way. In addition, reducing toxics can provide economic opportunities for Oregon if the state takes a leadership role in accelerating a transition to safer chemicals for use in businesses and consumer products.

**Background** In December 2011, DEQ presented the commission with a draft Toxics Reduction Strategy, including 25 recommended actions. This draft strategy was the culmination of work that began in 2009 with the development of an initial "Focus List" of priority toxic chemicals to be the primary, but not sole, focus of the agency's strategy actions. This list of 51 chemicals or groups of chemicals helps DEQ prioritize reduction and assessment activities. The overarching theme of the strategy is partnership and collaboration with other entities to reduce toxics at the source. DEQ recognizes that achieving significant reductions of toxics in the environment will require a diverse range of entities working together on common goals.

The recommended actions in the strategy were divided into four major categories:

- Improving integration and prioritization of toxics reduction activities

- Enhancing effective existing toxics reduction efforts
- Addressing identified toxics reduction needs
- Assessing and characterizing toxics in Oregon

The commission expressed its support for the approaches to reducing toxics described in the draft strategy at its December 2011 meeting. In early 2012, DEQ solicited input from stakeholders who participated in the initial development of the strategy framework, gave presentations on the strategy to various groups and provided an opportunity for others to comment on DEQ's toxics reduction web page.

Based on both external and internal input, some changes have been made to the scope and focus of individual recommended strategy actions, but the overall composition of the original 2011 draft strategy remains largely the same. However, in response to this input and other developments in 2012, DEQ has identified five short-term strategy implementation priorities and initiated implementation work on these actions.

The short-term priorities for the DEQ Toxics Reduction Strategy were influenced by two significant complementary initiatives in 2012. First, on April 27, 2012, Governor Kitzhaber signed Executive Order 12-05 intended to advance green chemistry and support toxics reduction in Oregon. The order directs DEQ and other agencies to work together on identifying green chemistry opportunities and incentives for Oregon businesses, and to implement state purchasing guidelines for low toxicity products. Second, the Columbia Basin Toxics Reduction Working Group recently identified five priority actions from its Toxics Reduction Action Plan. These actions complement and support DEQ's strategy.

**Key issues**

DEQ intends the Toxics Reduction Strategy to be refined and revised on a regular basis. New opportunities and challenges will develop over time, leading to changes in strategy actions and implementation priorities. In addition, some toxic chemicals on the Focus List may be reduced significantly in the environment, thus resulting in those chemicals being dropped from the list and the completion of related strategy actions.

The short-term strategy priorities are summarized in attachment A. They include the following:

- Integrating technical assistance across programs to advance green chemistry in two industry sectors
- Develop and implement a pesticide waste collection strategy
- Expand and enhance the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program
- Revise and implement low toxicity state purchasing and

procurement guidelines

- Work with consumer product retailers to reduce toxics in products

**EQC  
involvement**

DEQ is asking the commission for support and input on the overall Toxics Reduction Strategy and the top five short-term priority actions the Dec. 6-7, 2012, meeting. The commission will also have an opportunity to learn about activities initiated by external partners that support these strategy actions.

DEQ plans to provide the commission with a progress report on the implementation of the strategy at its December 2013 meeting. Recommendations on possible changes to strategy actions or implementation plans will also be presented at that meeting.

**Attachments**

A. Five priority actions for short-term implementation (2012-2013)

**Available  
online or by  
request**

1. Toxics Reduction Strategy summary and more detailed action descriptions - <http://www.deq.state.or.us/toxics/index.htm>

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