

Act 154 Chemicals Working Group

Meeting Date: October 19, 2016

GOALS/VALUES EXERCISE

Goals/Values Categories

1. PROCESS

- Keep final recommendations simple and straightforward.
- Ensure policy recommendations are vetted based on gaps.
- Identify and address gaps in regulatory oversight.
- Make sure State recommendations do not result in duplicative oversight.
- Build gap identification into legislation.

2. REGULATION/EXPANDED AUTHORITY

- Develop a clear and consistent regulatory approach to chemicals that may cause harm to human health and/or the environment.
- Prioritize regulatory gaps based on potential for human exposure.
- Identify strategies to assess the effectiveness (in protecting health) of current drinking water regulations and of unregulated chemicals in drinking water (public and private).
- New chemical review before use.
- Require that chemicals proposed for use be “listed” and be “unlisted” before putting into use once safety/risks are identified.
- Developed a strategic plan for future process to bring new chemicals into regulatory process OR to move a chemical into a new classification based on new information.
- Address gaps not covered by federal laws and policies, i.e., TSCA.
- Give public health officials in VT greater authority to act in order to prevent toxic exposures.

3. PREVENTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN EXPOSURE/VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Chemicals regulation following the precautionary principle:
 - Government must do more to prevent harm rather than respond/remediate harm already created
 - Make sure products are safe – that they do not contain toxic hazards – before allowing them to be sold in Vermont
 - Protection of human health and the environment need to be a higher priority than economic growth

- More proactively identify and address emerging chemicals of concern.
- Effectively protect Vermonters and the environment by use of “safe chemicals”.
- Effectively protect Vermonters and the environment by reducing exposure to and preventing harm caused by toxic chemicals:
 - Human health overall; safe air, safe water to use and drink
 - Work place impacts
 - Food system impacts
 - Wildlife/fisheries (specifically address bio-magnification accumulation)
- State policies must identify and protect/reduce chemical exposure of the most vulnerable populations (pregnant women, infants, in utero children, elderly, workers, immune-compromised, industrial/agricultural workers, etc.).
- Protect groundwater and drinking water supplies from contamination by hazardous waste and toxic substances (SWDA State primacy).
- Prevent another PFOA-related incident.
- Promote and protect equal access to a healthy environment.

4. PUBLIC AWARENESS/RIGHT TO KNOW & PREVENTION

- Develop a deeper understanding of current chemical regulations and reporting requirements.
- Educate Vermont legislators on the ways hazardous chemicals cause harm and routes of exposure.
- Honor the public’s right to know/make it easier to inform the public about chemicals that they are being exposed to (from manufacturing processes to products in homes and workplaces) which chemicals that could threaten their health or the environment.
- Require updated and current information on toxics and chemicals that are currently regulated, including information that permits effective legislative policy development.
- Require mandatory publication and public availability of all pre-use/approval research into safety and effects
- Using EPCRA, there should be a better, promote a more effective way to engage with chemical facility owners/operators.
- More proactively identify emerging chemicals of concern.
- Require mandatory publication/public availability of all pre-use and approval research regarding chemical safety, risks, and health effects

5. SYNERGY/HARMONY

- Harmonization of County, State, Federal, International regulations and policies by using Life Cycle Management Principles for regulation of chemicals, materials, products, manufacturing processes, waste and emissions.

- Develop State policy that is harmonized and not duplicative of other regulations.

6. DATA/ACCOUNTABILITY

- Discuss other reporting requirements that exist for industry (at the federal and global level) that the State could utilize.
- Develop an analytical method for chemicals prior to putting them into use.
- Create a system to monitor all hazardous chemicals entering, leaving, or stored in Vermont.
- Ensure that the public is informed early and often about the risks posed by the use, storage, and presence of hazardous waste/toxics in communities.

7. PLANNING

- Develop best management practices/standard operating procedures for industry.
- Local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) should have more resources (fiscal, equipment, personnel) to write comprehensive response plans to chemical release incidents.