

TURA Program Nanomaterials Background and History

2007 – 2010 MA Interagency Nanotechnology Committee:

In April 2007, the Massachusetts Interagency Nanotechnology Committee was formed to discuss and gain a better understanding of the emerging field of nanotechnology. The MA Interagency Nanotechnology Committee held two conferences, one in 2007 and one in 2009. The prior collaborating agencies that staffed the Interagency Nanotechnology Committee were the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Department of Public Health (MDPH), MA Division of Occupational Safety (DOS), MA Office of Technical Assistance and Technology (OTA), the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED).

- Of note:
 - This was an initiative of the Deval Patrick Administration. OTA and TURI were members, but did not form, run, or convene this committee. It is unclear as to who called for the formation of the committee.
 - The Interagency Nanotechnology Committee held two educational conferences ([2007](#) and [2009](#)), and then disbanded in 2011 with staff turnover. As of 2024, all but three members of the original Committee are now retired.
 - In 2010, OTA created a guidance document: [Nanotechnology – Considerations for Safe Development](#)

2016 Request to Investigate Nanomaterial Use in Massachusetts:

- November 18, 2016 - TURA Administrative Council received a [request](#) signed by 13 environmental / public health / labor organizations to investigate the use of nanomaterials in Massachusetts.
- October 5, 2017 – ACC and MCTA sent a nanomaterials [memo](#).
- October 10, 2017 – MCTA sent an additional nanomaterials [memo](#).
- August 2017 - TURI creates a [Nanomaterials Fact Sheet](#)
- July 9, 2018 – TURA Program Staff met with ACC Nanotechnology Panel, as presented in these [Advisory Committee Notes](#) (see pages 3 – 4)
- March 2019 – OTA presents [summary of nanomaterials survey](#) findings on nanomaterial use in Massachusetts

2020 Carbon Nanotubes and Carbon Nanofibers Petition:

- Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund, the City of Cambridge, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility [petition](#) the Toxics Use Reduction Act Administrative Council to list carbon nanotubes and nanofibers as a hazardous substance and to lower the reporting threshold to 100 grams.
- In Spring of 2021, Clean Water Action worked with Boston University Professor and former OTA staff Rick Reibstein to present [Nanotechnology: What Municipal Officials Need to Know](#). This training, which was conducted four times, introduced local first responders, health officials, and planners to the basics of nanotechnology, describing potential hazards and steps that local officials could take to understand and manage risk. Ninety-six state and local officials

participated. OTA staff attended each of these and said a few words about TURA Program services.

TURA Science Advisory Board Activity:

- On March 28, 2022, the TURA Science Advisory Board voted to add [Multi-walled Carbon Nanotubes to the TURA List](#).
- On December 8, 2022, the TURA Science Advisory Board voted to add [Single Walled Carbon Nanotubes to the TURA List](#).
- On February 10, 2023, the TURA Science Advisory Board voted to add [Carbon Nanofibers to the TURA List](#).