

Meeting of the TUR Administrative Council

June 5, 2017
Saltonstall Building
100 Cambridge Street, Boston
Conference Room A

Council Members Attending

Dan Sieger, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA)
Michael Flanagan, Department of Labor Standards (DLS)
Greg Cooper, Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
Greg White, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED)
Meg Blanchet, Department of Public Health (MassDPH)

Others Attending

Katherine Robertson (Massachusetts Chemistry Technology Alliance [MCTA]), Tricia McCarthy (American Chemistry Council [ACC]) Steve Rosario (ACC), Lucy Servidio (Capaccio Engineering), Liz Harriman (Toxics Use Reduction Institute [TURI]), Rachel Massey (TURI), Heather Tenney (TURI), Tiffany Skogstrom (Office of Technical Assistance [OTA]), Suzi Peck (MassDEP), Rich Bizzozero (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs [EEA]), Maia Rodriguez-Semp (OTA), Sonja Hartmann (OTA)

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair of the Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting by asking if there were any changes to the March 16, 2016 meeting minutes. There were no changes brought forth and there was a motion and a second to accept the minutes. The motion was approved 4-0 , with one member abstaining.

EPA Changes to the EPCRA Chemical List

Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) category. Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the HBCD category to the EPCRA list with a reporting threshold of 100 lbs, as it meets the TRI criteria for a Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT) compound.

The Council deliberated and there was a motion and a second to adopt the HBCD category to the TURA list, maintaining continuity with the EPCRA list. The motion was approved 4-0 with the representative from MassDPH abstaining.

Halogenated Hydrocarbons: C1-C4 Not Otherwise Listed

A representative from TURI provided an overview of the draft policy analysis for listing the chemical category described as “Halogenated Hydrocarbons C1-C4 Not Otherwise Listed” under TURA. The document provides background information on the category and data to inform the Council of the state of the science, use, and regulatory context. The TURA Science Advisory Board (SAB) had observed that there were potential substitutes for already listed substances (such as TCE and nPB) that were similar in structure and hazard, but were not yet listed. The primary reason for adding these substances would be to prevent regrettable substitutions. This

chemical category would not incorporate chemicals that are already listed individually; those chemicals that are already listed under TURA individually will not change status or designation. Representatives from TURI and MassDEP clarified that many of the not yet listed chemicals that would be included in the category are used as refrigerants, but it's unlikely a company would exceed the reporting threshold by recharging their refrigeration system. Members requested that the program work with the companies prior to listing to make them aware of alternatives. Council members and other attendees also requested the final policy analysis include additional information on use in Massachusetts and that it be presented at the next meeting of the Administrative Council.

One attendee asked if all chemicals within the category would be listed without further review by the SAB. Representatives of the TURA program clarified that the SAB has completed its review of the substances in the category. All chemicals in the category would be listed, however, a petition could be filed to remove an individual chemical from the TURA list if warranted by the science.

ERP Dry Cleaning Update

A representative from MassDEP provided a brief history of the Environmental Results Program (ERP) for dry cleaners and an update on the frequency of installation of new perchloroethylene (perc) based dry cleaning systems in the Commonwealth. In 2012 the Council decided to incorporate toxics use reduction into the MassDEP's ERP for dry cleaners rather than establishing a perc based dry cleaning "priority user segment." The Council voted that should this approach not be successful in reducing the installation of new perc dry cleaning machines, MassDEP would be charged with creating a permitting process for these new machines.

MassDEP provided members with several charts detailing the perc use trends in garment cleaning in the Commonwealth that demonstrated the success of the Council's approach to the sector. The charts show that the number of newly installed perc machines had dropped from 34 per year in 2000 to 0 per year in 2016, while the number of "alternative" cleaning equipment installed per year had grown from 12 per year to 22 per year in the same time period.

Overall the use of perc for garment cleaning per year has decreased. Since 2000, the number of dry cleaners reporting to MassDEP that they use perc machines has decreased from 612 to 275 currently. Since 2005, 120 dry cleaners have switched from perc to alternative cleaning methods. The average pounds of perc used per facility had dropped from just under 200 gallons per year to approximately 50 gallons per year between 2000 and 2016.

An attendee requested clarification on the data used to show the decrease in perc use over time. The representatives from MassDEP responded that, while the chart showing reductions in the number of dry cleaners subject to the ERP for perc include data on some closures and consolidations, the chart showing average perc use represents the decrease of perc in garment cleaning regardless of closures or consolidations.

The Chair of the Council asked if the TURA program had done geographic analysis of where outreach to garment cleaners had been successful. The Council and attendees discussed the possibility of expanding outreach to garment cleaners and consumers about the risks associated with perc and some alternative solvents compared with professional wet cleaning.

A representative from TURI reminded the attendees that TURI small business grants can be used to purchase professional wet cleaning equipment and that TURI supports garment cleaners through the process of switching away from perc. The TURI representative also stated that it has been shown that garment cleaners switching to professional wet cleaning experience cost savings over time.

Request for policy development for nanomaterials

The Executive Director discussed a request sent to Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Matthew Beaton, regarding policy development for nanomaterials. Thirteen environmental, labor, and advocacy groups coauthored the request that nanomaterials be assessed to ensure that they are used and disposed of in a manner that protects environmental and worker safety in the Commonwealth. The Executive Director requested information and input from all Council member agencies on agency-level policies, expertise and actions regarding nanomaterials. Council members and attendees, including representatives from the Massachusetts Chemistry Technology Alliance and the American Chemistry Council, were invited and encouraged to send information and comments on nanomaterials and their use in Massachusetts to Rich Bizzozero, Executive Director, Administrative Council on Toxics Use Reduction.

Agency Updates

Representatives from MassDEP, OTA and TURI presented the summarized program information available on the June 2017 TURA Program Update.

The Executive Director noted that, unless further comments are received regarding the Fiscal Year 2016 TURA Annual Report, the report will be finalized one week following the meeting.

Adjourn

Handouts

TURA Program Update June 2017

TURI Policy Analysis, Halogenated Hydrocarbons C1-C4 Not Otherwise Listed -Draft February 2017

Fiscal Year 2016 TURA Annual Report Draft

Nanomaterials Request

March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes for the TUR Administrative Council

ERP Dry Cleaning Update for February 2017

TURI grant information postcards

Minuteman Press case study

TDI Fact Sheet