

September 2014



CNHHE NEWS

We hope that everyone was able to take time to replenish and revitalize over the summer! There is certainly a lot happening in environmental health these days. This bulletin contains several articles of relevance, including those about the health implications of climate change and fracking for natural gas. There is also a link to a primer from Equiterre for gardening without the use of pesticides at the close of the season.

In the near future, we will be sending you an email and we ask that you pass it on to any contacts, colleagues, friends, etc. who you think would be interested in joining or following the network.

You might be interested to know that the CNHHE now has over 350 registered members, 231 Facebook followers and 501 Twitter followers.

In order to serve you to the best of our ability, we offer you this “gentle reminder” to complete the on-line survey we sent out in the last couple of weeks. Your feedback is important us.

Latest News:

If you need encouragement to speak up on behalf of human health and the environment during Public Comment Periods offered by our CMP, check out this documentary about the challenges facing those that are trying to ban endocrine disruptors in Europe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ks5OSVDI00#t=1391>

There are several opportunities for public comment open at this time:

Dyes of the Aromatic Azo and Benzidine-based Substance Grouping

This grouping of dyes is found in paper and textiles, and used as a coloring agent in wood coatings, stains and inks.

The draft screening assessment comment period is from **July 26 – September 24, 2014**

http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/group/azo_benzidine/dyes-colorants-eng.php

Aromatic Amines of the Aromatic Azo and Benzidine-based Substance Grouping

These substances are predominantly used as chemical intermediates in the synthesis of pigments, dyes, pesticides, drugs and rubber products, and also used as a laboratory chemical. Some of these substances are also used in cosmetics. The draft screening assessment comment period is from **July 26 – September 24, 2014**.

http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/group/azo_benzidine/amines-eng.php

Methylenediphenyl Diisocyanate and Diamine (MDI/MDA) Substance Grouping

The major use of 4,4'-MDI, pMDI and mixed MDIs is in the manufacture of polyurethane products, such as insulation foams, adhesives, coatings, flexible packaging laminate and foam slabs used in furniture. MDI substances are used as adhesives in the production of engineered wood products, such as oriented strand board. MDI substances may also be used in do-it-yourself (DIY) products such as adhesives, insulation foam, and sealants.

Public Comment period for the draft screening assessment and proposed risk management scope document for MDI **August 17 - October 15, 2014**

<http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/group/diisocyanate-eng.php>

Stream 4 Heavy Fuel Oils (HFOs) of the Petroleum Sector Stream Approach

Stream 4 HFOs are used as blending stocks in final heavy fuel oil products.

The draft screening assessment comment period is from **September 6 - November 5, 2014**

<http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/petrole/group-4/index-eng.php>

Chlorhexidine and its Salts

Information on chlorhexidine and its salts is now available.

<http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/approach-proche/chlorhexidine-eng.php>

2-Propanone (Acetone)

Acetone is used as an industrial and laboratory solvent, as a cleaner and degreaser, and in paints, dyes, adhesives and coatings. Small amounts of acetone may also be used in food, food packaging, pharmaceuticals and natural health products, veterinary drugs, cosmetics and pest control products.

The final screening assessment for 2-Propanone (Acetone) was published.

<http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/approach-proche/acetone-eng.php>

1,1'-Biphenyl (Biphenyl)

Biphenyl is found naturally in coal tar, crude oil and natural gas. The main source that results from human activity is from incomplete burning of organic matters, coal, oil, fossil fuels, incinerators and agricultural waste. It may also be released from car exhaust, residential and industrial heating sources and cigarette smoke.

The final screening assessment for 1,1'-Biphenyl (Biphenyl) was published.

<http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/approach-proche/biphenyl-eng.php>

1-Propene (Propene)

Propene is a naturally occurring gas that is emitted from many plants, volcanoes, and from incomplete burning of organic matter. It may also be released to the environment during industrial activities and in exhaust from older vehicles.

The final screening assessment for 1-Propene (Propene) was published.

<http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/approach-proche/propene-eng.php>

Resources and Articles:

Health Effects of Fracking:

Colborn et al, 2014. Air Pollution and Natural Gas Operations:

<http://endocrinedisruption.org/chemicals-in-natural-gas-operations/air-pollution>

Tedx 2014 Health Effects of Chemicals used in Fracking

Lancet: Health Implications of Fracking

Climate Change:

Conveying the Human Implications of Climate Change: A Climate Change Communication Primer for Public Health Professionals:

<http://www.climatechangecommunication.org/images/files/4C%20Communication%20Primer%20-%20Conveying%20the%20Human%20Implications%20of%20Climate%20Change.pdf>

Air Pollution:

Strong consumer advocate and environmental lawyer Erin Brockovich (of the movie by the same name) is taking an interest in the air pollution issues in Pictou County Nova Scotia:

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1233905-erin-brockovich-slams-pictou-county-pulp-mill-pollution>

<http://www.brockovich.com/news/big-concerns-raised-in-nova-scotia/>

From Equiterre: Bee-Friendly Ways to De-Grub your Lawn

<http://www.equiterre.org/en/news/bee-friendly-ways-to-de-grub-your-lawn>