

June 2017



## CNHHE NEWS

Much has been happening in the world of Environmental Health, and there are many opportunities available to provide input to consultations or learn from webinars and workshops.

There are documents on several substances open for public comment at present, notably EDTA and its salts, used in cosmetics, natural health products, and pharmaceuticals; substances containing Cobalt; and regulations respecting a reduction in the release of VOC's from the petroleum industry. In addition, the proposed approach concerning the transparency of the CMP's risk assessment process is open for comment.

Please let us know if you know anyone with special knowledge of either EDTA and its salts, or cobalt-containing substances. We are looking for someone who could write comments on draft assessments or risk management approaches for these substances. Alternatively, they could contribute their expertise to a webinar to generate comments. We can pay a small fee for this work!

The CNHHE was able to send two well-qualified delegates, Dr. Meg Sears from Prevent Cancer Now and Sheila Cole, of the Nova Scotia Environmental Network, to the Chemicals Management Plan Multi-stakeholder Consultations on CMP post 2020 in Ottawa. They were also permitted to observe the CMP's Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting the next day. Reports on the meetings will be posted on our website in the near future. The Network has been able to pay Meg Sears and Sandra Madray to write comments on ethylene glycol ethers (solvents) and we also contributed recommendations on proposed formaldehyde and asbestos regulations.

Finally, please take advantage of opportunities to provide input into consultations. At present, there is an online consultation open on self-care product regulations, on a proposed food policy for Canada, and one on the design of the proposed Energy East Pipeline hearings.

### CMP NEWS:

**Bacillus thuringiensis strain ATCC 13367** - The draft screening assessment for Bacillus thuringiensis strain ATCC 13367 (Priority B micro-organism) was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on **June 28, 2017**. [www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/micro-organisms/priority-b-medium-hazard.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/micro-organisms/priority-b-medium-hazard.html)

**EDTA and its Salts Group** - The draft screening assessment for the EDTA and its Salts Group was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on **June 28, 2017**.

[www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan-3-substances/edta-salts-group.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan-3-substances/edta-salts-group.html)

**Transparency in Chemicals Management Plan Risk Assessment Activities** - The proposed Approach to promote transparency in Chemicals Management Plan risk assessment activities was published for a public comment period ending on **June 30, 2017**.

[www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan/initiatives/transparency-risk-assessment-activities.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan/initiatives/transparency-risk-assessment-activities.html)

**Cobalt and cobalt-containing substances** - The Final Screening Assessment for Cobalt and Cobalt-containing Substances and the revised Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines for Cobalt were published. A Proposed Risk Management Approach Document for Cobalt and Soluble Cobalt-compounds was also published for a 60-day public comment period ending on **July 26, 2017**.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/substance-groupings-initiative/cobalt.html>

**Volatile organic compounds (Petroleum Sector)** - The proposed Regulations Respecting Reduction in the Release of Volatile Organic Compounds (Petroleum Sector) pursuant to subsection 93(1) of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on **July 26, 2017**. <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2017/2017-05-27/html/reg2-eng.php>

**Methylenediphenyl Diisocyanate and Diamine (MDI/MDA) Substance Grouping** - The Final Screening Assessment for the MDI/MDA Substance Grouping was published. The Proposed Risk Management Approach Document for MDI Substances was also published for a public comment period ending on **August 8, 2017**. Final Screening Assessment: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ese-ees/default.asp?lang=En&n=3139721E-1> . Proposed Risk Management Approach: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ese-ees/default.asp?lang=En&n=E05194C1-1> Notice in Canada Gazette: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2017/2017-06-10/html/notice-avis-eng.php#nb1> .

A notice of intent to amend the Domestic Substances List to apply the Significant New Activity provisions of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 to two MDA substances was published for a public comment period ending on **August 8, 2017**. Notice in Canada Gazette: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2017/2017-06-10/html/notice-avis-eng.php#na1> . Please note that this information will be available on [Canada.ca \(Chemical Substances\)](http://Canada.ca/ChemicalSubstances) soon.

**Substances with Limited General Population Exposure** - The Draft Screening Assessment for the Rapid Screening of Substances with Limited General Population Exposure was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on **August 8, 2017**.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan/initiatives/rapid-screening-approach-chemicals-management-plan.html#s1>

**Substances of Low Concern** - The Draft Screening Assessment for 74 Substances Identified as being of Low Concern was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on **August 16, 2017**.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan-3-substances/74-substances-low-concern.html>

**MDI** - A proposed order adding 5 MDI substances to Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on **August 16, 2017**. <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2017/2017-06-17/html/req3-eng.php>

**Third Phase of the Chemicals Management Plan** - The Year One Work Planning Update for the Third Phase of the Chemicals Management Plan was published.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/third-phase-chemicals-management-plan.html>

**Fact Sheets** - Four new fact sheets on various risk assessment subjects were published –

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/fact-sheets/application-weight-of-evidence-precaution-risk-assessments.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/fact-sheets/consideration-endocrine-related-effects-risk-assessment.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/fact-sheets/identification-risk-assessment-priorities.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/fact-sheets/human-biomonitoring-data-risk-assessment.html>

**Microbeads** - In June 2017, the [Microbeads in Toiletries Regulations](#) were published in the [Canada Gazette, Part II: Vol. 151, No. 12 - June 14, 2017 \(PDF version 4,285 K\)](#). These regulations will help protect the environment by reducing the quantity of plastic microbeads entering Canadian freshwater and marine ecosystems. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/other-chemical-substances-interest/microbeads.html>

**Fuel Oil No. 2** - The Government of Canada published a final [order adding Fuel Oil No. 2 to Schedule 1](#) of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, also called the [Toxic Substances List](#), on June 14, 2017. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/petroleum-sector-stream-approach/stream-3.html>

**Chemicals Management Plan Science Committee** - The meeting record and committee report from the November 2016 meeting of the Chemicals Management Plan Science Committee are now available. [www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan/science-committee/meeting-records-reports.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan/science-committee/meeting-records-reports.html)

## **Other Consultations:**

### **From Health Canada: Regulating Self-Care Products**

Self-care products are available for purchase without a prescription and include cosmetics, natural health products and non-prescription drugs (such as lipstick, vitamins, sunscreen and pain relievers). If you are interested in providing us with feedback on the proposal to modernize self-care product regulation, please register for one of the following sessions:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultation-regulation-self-care-products.html>

### **From Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

#### **[A Food Policy for Canada: Consulting with Canadians](#)**

Food matters. The decisions we make as individuals and as a country about food have a direct impact on our health, environment, economy, and communities. Working together, we can put more affordable, safe, healthy, food on tables across the country, while protecting the environment.

The Government of Canada is asking Canadians for their views on what should be included in A Food Policy for Canada. View the survey here: <http://agr.sondages-surveys.ca/s/v2-a-food-policy-for-canada/?l=en>

### **From [Équiterre](#):**

#### **Highlights of the Monthly e-Letter:**

- [Action of the month: choose shared mobility and ditch driving alone!](#)
- [New report by équiterre : accelerating the transition to electric mobility in Canada](#)
- [Bringing innovation to pest management policy](#)
- [7 reasons to sign up for an organic basket](#)
- [Green home resources : the impact of ambient fragrances on our health](#)
- ["Uncanny toxics: vanquishing an invisible enemy" a comic book](#)
- [Green home resources : choosing windows and doors](#)

### **From [McMaster Optimal Aging Portal](#): [Blog](#):**

- [No one left out: Breaking down cultural barriers to support healthy aging](#)
- [Avoid falls with these 3 simple tips](#)
- [Got heartburn? Avoid these common acid-blocking drugs](#)
- [Don't believe the hype: 6 tips to identify trustworthy health information](#)
- [Is it time for a medication review? Many people take unnecessary meds](#)

**From [Southwest PA Environmental Health Project](#):**

**[FREE WEBINAR: Children and Fracking: Understanding the Dangers and Protecting Our Vulnerable Kids](#)**

Do you have specific questions about fracking and children's health? This free live webinar will be your chance to ask our experts. Don't miss your chance to get answers: Click here to register now for Children and Fracking: Understanding the Dangers and Protecting Our Vulnerable Kids.

More information on fracking may be found at:

- [Chief Medical Officer of Health's Recommendations Concerning Shale Gas Development in New Brunswick](#), Dr. Eilish Cleary, 2012.
- [Understanding the Public Health Implications Concerning Shale Gas Production and Hydraulic Fracturing](#). The National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH)

**From [Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment Blog](#):**

- [CEPA Review: A Chance to Reduce Human Suffering & Health Care Costs](#) - On May 29th, the newly created Coalition for Action on Toxics held an event on Parliament Hill to draw attention to the changes needed to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) to ensure that it protects Canadians from highly toxic substances. This new coalition—which is housed by Tides Canada, and includes EcoJustice, Environmental Defence, Équiterre, and CAPE—wants decision-makers to understand what changes are needed and how important they are.
- [A National Cycling Strategy: A Triple Win for Public Health](#) - On June 1, 2017, CAPE participated in the National Bike Summit organized by Canada Bikes where we declared our support for the development of a National Cycling Strategy.

Here is why: A National Cycling Strategy would be a triple win for public health. It would help us to reduce the rate of chronic diseases in Canada. Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are escalating at alarming rates across the country. They place a heavy burden on the health care system while also producing pain, disability, and premature deaths for hundreds of thousands of Canadians each year. For example, cardiovascular disease alone costs \$12 billion each year in Canada.

**From [The National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health \(NCCEH\)](#)**

The National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health offers many useful resources, from evidence reviews and case studies to workshops and webinars. [www.ncceh.ca](http://www.ncceh.ca)

- [Artificial Turf and Crumb Rubber](#) - Modern artificial turf is used indoors and outdoors in a wide variety of settings, including multipurpose recreational and professional sports fields, playgrounds, residential areas, and public streetscapes (base of trees, sidewalks), and

public parks. Concerns have been raised regarding cancer and other health risks from exposure to the chemical constituents of artificial turf blades and crumb rubber infill, which include heavy metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

- [Floatation Tanks](#) - Floatation or float tanks have resurged in popularity since their initial commercialization in the 1970s. As this practice grows in popularity, public health practitioners have raised a number of questions regarding how to inspect these facilities and to protect public health. Float tanks are unique in that: Although the practice involves floating in "water," the use and operation of a float tank differs markedly from conventional recreational water facilities, leading to questions as to how they should be classified and regulated. Float solution has very different chemical and physical properties compared to recreational water, which affects many aspects of float tank design and operation. The solution in the float tank is not changed between users. Rather, it is cycled a number of times through a filtration/sanitizing system. Several hundred "floats" may occur in the same solution before it is changed. Float solution may be difficult to test (for halogens, pH, and microbes) through conventional recreational water methods.
- [Talking about ticks: Communicating into a challenging and changing environment](#)  
[A presentation](#) delivered as a webinar in collaboration with the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID).