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**Author**

**Corporate Author** United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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Dioxin Management Task Force Meeting - October 13, 1983

The Dioxin Management Task Force meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by Michael B. Cook, Dioxin Coordinator, in behalf of Lee M. Thomas, Assistant Administrator, OSWER, who was delayed in arriving at the meeting.

Mr. Cook gave a short introduction concerning the Task Force's purpose. He then discussed in detail the overall management structure which has been set up for implementation of the National Dioxin Strategy and guidance. (See attachment)

In summary, Cook explained there would be:

- (1) Dioxin Representatives for each program and region who could speak for the program and prepare periodic reports on workplans and implementation. These individuals would be at the division or branch level.
- (2) The Chlorinated Dioxin Work Group (CDWG) and its subcommittee, the Dioxin Disposal Advisory Group (DDAG), would serve as technical coordinator and advisor to the AA for OSWER. Don Barnes will continue as Chairman of the CDWG and Conrad Kleveno as Chairman of the DDAG.
- (3) The Dioxin Management Task Force would be comprised of individuals at the Office Director level in Headquarters and the Division Director level in the Regions. These people would review the progress of implementing the strategy, recommend needed modifications to the strategy, identify

policy and management issues for referral to the Deputy and Assistant AA's and identify and resolve other policy and management issues.

- (4) Within Lee Thomas' office, Mike Cook, supported by a staff of four, will have responsibility for implementing the dioxin strategy. Activities will include identifying issues, bringing them before the appropriate group, handling non-routine press inquiries, working with the Comptroller on budgetary matters, and reviewing testimony, correspondence, guidance, etc. for concurrence. (Cook's group will not become involved in daily site management issues.)

Mr. Cook asked for comments.

George Harlow (Region IV) stated that he was not clear about the appropriate individuals to be appointed to each group outlined by Cook. Cook explained further and said he would forward a clarifying memo to the RA's.

Ed Johnson (OPP) stated that a "traffic cop" is necessary for prioritizing laboratory analysis. The strategy states that the ESD directors will prioritize each region's needs and OSWER will be the "national traffic cop", if one is necessary.

George Harlow asked if a communication to a Federal facility on minimizing danger to health and safety should be cleared with Headquarters. Cook replied that it should.

Matt Straus, (OSW) asked how regulatory matters relating to dioxin should be handled procedurally. Mike Slimak (OW) pointed out that the Strategy calls for the Management Task Force to act as the Steering Committee. The regulation would then proceed through regular "red border" review.

The next item, resource recovery facilities, was discussed by Bill Librizzi and Garrett Smith of Region II. Smith summarized for the Task Force the issues facing Region II regarding the incineration of municipal waste: All landfilling has been banned on Long Island and the public is opposed to incineration of municipal waste because they perceive that dioxin, in harmful quantities, is emitted during the process.

The then Deputy Administrator John Hernandez had issued a statement in 1981 regarding dioxin emissions which the public, according to Smith, believes does not tell "the whole story".

NYS Commissioner Williams has now asked Region II to sample six sites in addition to Hempstead. A discussion followed on which protocols should be used if Hempstead (or other NY sites) are sampled, the source of funding for sampling, and which office within EPA should have the lead.

Bill Librizzi and Don Barnes (OPTS) proposed that we should use the same protocols at Hempstead that the Agency used elsewhere, and not the protocol devised for Hempstead

in 1979. The group agreed.

The source of funding for sampling Hempstead and the other NY sites was then discussed.

Since EPA had promised NY several years ago that it would sample Hempstead when it reopened, it was decided that OANR would take the responsibility for the sampling and analysis at Hempstead. The CDWG will be responsible for interpreting the data. OANR will speak to the U.S. Department of Energy to see if it could help in funding the sampling and analysis since that Agency has a interest in the results. OANR and Region II will also speak to NYS to see if it can also contribute to the funding.

In regard to the other NY sites, it was noted that there is no EPA money to sample these sites independent of Tier 4 testing. Therefore, OANR will have to see if the sites fit into their Tier 4 sampling scheme. Otherwise, there is no EPA money to sample these sites. In any event, Region II should offer technical assistance to New York.

Ed Lillis (OANR) advised the group that there is only \$750K for Tier 4 in FY'84.

Bill Librizzi stated that we should probably lower the expectations in the strategy of what conclusion can be drawn from the data since \$750K will probably not be enough to complete a statistically valid sampling of combustors in the U.S.

Rick Kutz (OTS) then reviewed the matter of the funding of the Veterans Administration/ EPA Cooperative effort on the study of Human Adipose Tissue.

In brief, there are 3 phases:

- (1) Assess the status and statistical breadth of archived adipose tissue, as they relate to vets with Vietnam experience, vets without Vietnam experience, and the general population.
- (2) Develop a collaborative, validated method to analyze for 2,3,7,8-TCDD in humans.
- (3) Analyze samples from Phase I with methods from Phase II.

The total budgetary needs are \$1.2 million and FTE over the next 2 years. Historically, EPA signed an IAG with the VA to enable the VA to give us money to begin Phase I. The VA believes we have committed ourselves to the entire project, but EPA now has no money programmed for the project.

Mike Cook asked for a discussion of the relative merits of this study versus others that are being performed.

Don Barnes stated that the next project would provide an analytical method for determining 2,3,7,8-TCDD in fatty

tissue which might serve as a marker of exposure to the chemical. Such information would be useful to those concerned with potential exposure to and possible ill effects from Agent Orange, contaminated Missouri soil, and so on.

He also mentioned that CDC is beginning to develop a methodology based on blood rather than fatty tissue. He noted the advantages (easier to collect in larger quantities) and disadvantages (lower concentrations of 2,3,7,8-TCDD and only in earliest stages of exploration).

Lisa Barrera (OANR) advised that originally their use of our tissue bank was the only contribution to which the Agency was firmly committed.

Don Barnes concluded that scientifically the work is worthwhile because it is a link in a chain of information that is needed:

method	bkgd. levels	levels in suspect populations	health effects	potential pollution source
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When no single program office came forward to offer funding for the effort, the Task Force decided that Lee Thomas should take the issue to Al Alm who would decide whether or not to reprogram Agency money.

The Contamination Level in Fish Issue was the last to be discussed. Don Barnes made the presentation. He explained that the Food and Drug Administration, EPA and Canada have developed somewhat different approaches to



assessing the risks associated with 2,3,7,8-TCDD in fish.

Barnes and others noted Mr. Ruckelshaus' desire to have a uniform methodology throughout the Federal government. The issue is broader than simply fish. It concerns the manner in which "dioxin" risks will be assessed in soil, water, and air. This would include questions at action levels, standards, cleanup levels, and so on, for 2,3,7,5-TCDD and the other related compounds.

Barnes noted that Jack Moore, possible AA for OPTS, has offered to take the lead for the Agency in discussing this matter with FDA, and possibly other relevant agencies; e.g. CDC. Moore will work with EPA's OSWER, OHEA and the Office of Water.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

## DIOXIN MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE ATTENDEES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Number</u>
Lee M. Thomas	AA, OSWER	382-4610
Barry Korb	OSWER	382-4617
Richard Spear	ESD - Reg. II	340-6685
Kathleen Shimmin	TWMD - Reg. II	454-7466
David Sussman	OSW	382-7927
Garrett Smith	OSW - Reg. II	264-3407
William J. Lacy	OMSQA	382-5772
Charles Plost	OMSQA	382-5789
Dick Sanderson	External Affairs	475-8200
George Harlow	AWMD - Reg. IV	257-3454
Bill Librizzi	Reg. II	264-2647
Jim Cummings	DTF Staff	382-5363
Jack Edwardson	Comptroller	382-4200
Gene Lucero	OSWER-OWPE	382-4814
Ed Lillis	OAQPS	629-5586
Art Spratlin	Reg. VII	758-6529
Lisa Barrera	OANR	382-7410
Don Barnes	OPTS	382-2897
F.W. Kutz	OPTS	382-3569
ED Johnson	OPP	557-7090
Alan S. Corson	OSW	382-4770
Carolyn Clinton	DAO	382-4724
Paul H. Brown	OPRM	382-2256
John Hall	OERR	475-8108
Carol Panasewich	OPP	557-7102
Mike Slimak	OWRS	382-7051
Mike Cook	OSWER	382-5864
Bonnie Casper	OSWER	382-4622
Michael Dellarco	OMSQA	382-5763
Matthew Bills	ORD/OMSQA	382-5767
Bernard Steigerwald	OANR	