

**Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington (CHE-WA)  
Precautionary Principle (PP) Working Group meeting  
December 8, 2005, 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Antioch University Seattle**

**NOTES**

Participants:

Ann Clifton, Mercury Awareness Team

Kate Davies, Antioch University

Steven Gilbert, Institute for Neurotoxicity and Neurological Disorders and chair of CHE-WA PP Working group

Kathy Kiwala, American Lung Association of Washington

Elise Miller, Institute for Children's Environmental Health

Mary Ann Newell, Consumers for Dental Choice

Marianne Seifert, concerned citizen

**1) Introductions and updates were shared**

**2) Ongoing Opposition to the PP**

A discussion of the opposition to the PP made the following points: 1) industry has many dollars invested and reduces costs by polluting; 2) fear of increased costs; 3) pharmaceuticals make money from disease, thus emphasis on treatment, rather than prevention; 4) fear of slowing or stopping growth and adoption of new technology. It was highly recommended that the group review the article in "Rachel's Weekly" (posted on the CHE-WA web site) regarding an overview of the opposition's arguments and 14 points that respond to those arguments.

**3) Status of PP Locally**

- Discussion of Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) resolution submitted at the annual WSPHA meeting in October 2005 and why it failed to pass.  
Highlights:
  - People don't necessarily understand the positive implications of the PP
  - Need to present concrete examples of the advantages of using PP, including specific ways that the PP is being applied already. Examples might include procurement policies and land use (that Richard Conlin requested) as well as PBDEs, PBTs, integrated pest management, etc.
  - Find out from colleagues in San Francisco how the PP is working there.
  - Meet with Don Sloma, who was the one who "sunk" the PP resolution and is on the State Board of Health, to build a relationship with him before the next WSPHA meeting.
  - Need to strategically encourage allies at the WSPHA next year who can articulately and succinctly speak to why the PP is so important.
- Washington Health Legislative Conference (WHLC)
  - Steve Gilbert reviewed his presentation at the WHLC on December 6<sup>th</sup>. He focused his talk on the concept that the PP was reasonable, rational, and

responsible. Several people were suggested as possible contacts for feedback on the presentations, including: Judy Huntington, Vicki Yuara, Maxine Hayes. (Steve to follow-up).

#### **4) Status of PP at the State Level**

- After some discussion, the group concluded it was best to continue to work with individual Departments such as Department of Health and Department of Ecology and educate the State Board of Health, but there would be little change of success at the Governor's level until WSPHA passed a PP resolution.

#### **5) National Issues**

- Planning for the National PP meeting June 9-11, 2006 were reviewed. Both Steve and Elise plan to attend and Kate may also go.

#### **6) Next Steps**

- Develop a document that describes tangible examples of the potential impact of the PP on City of Seattle issues or policies. This suggestion was made sometime ago by Council member Richard Conlin. This address such issues as procurement, land use, or health indicators. In addition, this document might include examples from San Francisco to show how the PP is working there. (Steve Gilbert to draft document)
- Meet with Dave Galvin of King County Hazardous waste about expanding the role of the PP in KC. (Steve Gilbert to request meeting)
- Meet with Don Sloma (Steve, Kate and Marianne will request meeting).
- Plan PP meeting June 22, 2006 at Antioch University. The theme of the meeting will be that the PP is evolutionary not revolutionary. Main agenda items include: 1) review events from the National PP meeting which will be held June 9-11; 2) plan for submitting PP resolution again at the WSPHA meeting in the fall; 3) review tangible impacts documents; 4) consider local next steps. The format may be a panel presentation with possible speakers including Dave Galvin, Richard Gelb, and Rob Duff.
- Conference call January 31, 2006, 1:00-2:00 pm (Elise to set up)