

RCEN Atmosphere & Energy Caucus Annual Report 2009-2010 **April 2010**

Caucus Co-Chairs:

Anna Tilman, STORM, ON
Sandra Madray, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, MB

Steering Committee Members:

Sheila Cole, Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia, NS
Gordon Dalzell, Citizens Coalition for Clean Air, NB
Peter Ormond, Conserver Society of Hamilton and District, ON
Nashina Shariff, Toxics Watch Society of Alberta, AB
Stefania Fortugno, InterChurch Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative, SK
Mary Richardson, Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca, AB

Overview:

The RCEN [Atmosphere & Energy Caucus](#) works on important issues related primarily to hazardous air pollutants. As such, the caucus membership frequently works in partnership with the RCEN Toxics Caucus. The Atmosphere & Energy Caucus Steering Committee held teleconferences on May 20, August 20, September 28, December 9, 2009 and on March 16, 2010. Approximately 16 Caucus members were able to attend the RCEN AGA in June 2009. At this national caucus meeting, the members reviewed and discussed some of the key working issues for this fiscal year. Steering Committee elections were held in May 2009. The Steering Committee held two broader calls for members on July 21, 2009 and March 3, 2010 to provide updates to the Tripartite/CAMS/Air Quality consultation ongoing with Environment Canada.

The Nuclear Working Group (NWG) is an official RCEN working group hosted by the Atmosphere & Energy Caucus. It was formed in July 2009 to address growing concern among members about the many environmental and health issues tied to the nuclear industry in Canada. The NWG met via teleconference on July 22, September 3, and December 8, 2009.

Consultations:

Caucus members participated in the following consultations, with Environment Canada, unless otherwise indicated. For more information on a given consultation, please follow the link to the relevant consultations page on the RCEN website.

1. [Renewal of the Federal Agenda for the Reduction of VOCs from Consumer and Commercial Products](#): On March 22-23, 2010 in Toronto, ON, Environment Canada hosted a consultation meeting concerning new proposals to limit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in (some) consumer and commercial products. Five RCEN delegates (Sheila Cole, EHANS; Sandra Madray, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba; Bruno Marcocchio, Sierra Club Atlantic; Dorothy Wigmore, Resource Conservation Manitoba; and, Quentin Chiotti, Pollution Probe – replaced by the alternate, Dave Stevens, CHOKED) and one youth delegate (Nadia Chowdhury, Sierra Youth Coalition Regional Action Committee) were selected to attend the meeting where the government presented background information on the proposed elements for a renewed Federal Agenda for the Reduction of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from Consumer and Commercial Products. (Note: the Youth delegate did not attend)
2. [Industrial Emissions Requirements Sectoral Sub-Group Consultations](#): Between September and December 2009, 21 RCEN representatives sat on multi-stakeholder teams with health NGOs, industry and provincial government representatives and collaborated to develop base level industrial emissions requirements (BLIERs) for 11 sectoral sub-groups and 2 cross-sectoral sub-groups. The 11 industry-specific sub-groups were created to help determine appropriate emissions requirements for each sector and the cross-cutting sub-

group worked on equipment standards that was relevant across a number of sectors. The BLIERs were developed and presented to the federal government (in the form of a report) in February 2010 with the intent of contributing to the framework for the Comprehensive Air Management System (CAMS). Several of the sub-groups were asked to continue to refine their recommendations from January until March 2010. RCEN delegates on each of the sub-groups are:

- **Oil sands:** David Spink (Prairie Acid Rain Coalition, AB), Joseph Hnatiuk (Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists, AB), Marc Huot (Pembina Institute, AB)
 - **Upstream oil and gas:** Chris Severson-Baker (Pembina Institute, AB), Anna Tilman (STORM Coalition, ON) and as alternate, Wayne Ungstad (Ponoka Fish and Game, AB)
 - **Pipelines:** Sheila Cole (EHANS, NS), Wayne Ungstad
 - **Refineries:** Sheila Cole, Nashina Shariff (Alberta Toxic Watch Society, AB)
 - **Electricity:** Thomas Marr-Laing (Pembina Institute, AB) and as alternate, Sheila Cole
 - **Base Metal smelters:** Anna Tilman, Sandra Madray (Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, MB)
 - **Iron and Steel:** James White (Ecology Action Centre, NS), Robert Rattle (Clean North, ON) and as alternate, Anna Tilman
 - **Iron ore pelletizing:** Peter Ormond (Conservator Society of Hamilton and District, ON)
 - **Aluminum:** Dave Stevens (CHOKED, BC), Daniel Green (Sierra Club of Canada - Quebec Chapter, QC) and as alternate: Sandra Madray
 - **Cement:** Mary Richardson (Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca, AB), Michel de Spot (EcoSmart Foundation, BC) and as alternate, Anna Tilman
 - **Pulp and Paper:** Delores Broten (Reach for Unbleached Foundation, BC), Sandra Boswell (The Allergy and Environmental Illness Group, PEI) and as alternate, Sandra Madray
 - **Equipment standards for boilers and heaters:** Nashina Shariff, Delores Broten
 - **Equipment standards for gas-fired turbines:** Nashina Shariff, and as alternate, Sandra Boswell
3. **Multi-Stakeholder Discussion Group on Air Pollution:** Beginning in May 2008, with the creation of the CAMS Steering Committee (involving representatives from federal and provincial governments as well as representatives from industry and NGOs), 4 RCEN delegates (Stephen Hazell, Sierra Club of Canada; Nashina Shariff, Toxics Watch Society of Alberta; Quentin Chiotti, Pollution Probe; and, Lisa Gue, David Suzuki Foundation) have been working together with the other members of the CAMS Committee (federal, provincial representatives) to develop a viable alternative to the original federal framework on air emissions. The federal government temporarily disengaged following the 2008 election, during which time discussions continued between the provinces and the multi-stakeholder group; the federal government re-engaged in June 2009. The RCEN delegates to this consultation provided regular updates to the Atmosphere & Energy Caucus Steering Committee as well as broader debriefings on the process on three occasions: June 14, 2009, at the A&E face-to-face meeting as part of the RCEN Annual General Assembly with 16 participants; July 21, by teleconference with 13 participants; and, March 3, 2010 by teleconference with over 20 participants.

Related Consultations through other Caucuses:

Updates for consultations and activities related to Atmosphere & Energy but which fall under the Toxics Caucus of the RCEN and is available in detail within the Toxics Caucus Annual Report 2009-2010. These consultations include the following:

1. **National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) Work Group:** Anna Tilman, John Jackson, Olga Schwartzkopf, Anne Mitchell, and James White sit on the NPRI WG. The WG met by teleconference on May 5, July 14 & 16, November 18, 2009. An in-person meeting was planned for February 2010, but was delayed by the NPRI office until Fall. The main

achievement on this file during this year was the court decision requiring the mining industry to report their discharges to tailings ponds and rock piles. The NPRI WG made input into the development of the Gazette Notice to implement this court case.

2. **Environment Canada Workshop on Canada's Engagement in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership:** Four ENGO delegates were selected to attend the Environment Canada Workshop on Canada's Engagement in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership in person (Fe de Leon, Anna Tilman, Kapil Khatter, Julie Sommerfreund) and five ENGO delegates were selected to participate by teleconference (Sandra Madray, Sandra Boswell, John Werring, Daniel Green, David Boehm). The purpose of the workshop was to inform stakeholders of the international efforts on mercury, specifically the UNEP Mercury Partnership Program. Stakeholders included ENGOS, industry representatives and other government departments. During the workshop EC asked participants to help identify priority actions for the Government of Canada.
3. **Consultation on Pollution Prevention Planning Notice in respect to Toluene Diisocyanates (TDI):** Two RCEN ENGOS (Mary Richardson and Fe de Leon) were invited to participate in a 1-day consultation to discuss the development of the proposed Pollution Prevention Planning Notice for the Urethane and Miscellaneous Foam Sector (excluding Polystyrene), with focus on Toluene Diisocyanates (TDI). The meeting, on March 22, 2010 in Ottawa, ON, focused on key elements that will be considered in the development of a proposed Pollution Prevention Planning instrument and on technical requirements that persons subject to the Notice will need to consider when developing and implementing their pollution prevention plans.