

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Science Advisory Board
Ecological Processes and Effects Committee Workshop (Public)

Ecological Risk Assessment – An Evaluation of the State-of-the-Practice

February 7 – 8, 2006

The Westin Embassy Row Hotel
2100 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Day 1 – Tuesday, February 7

- 8:30 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks and Workshop Introduction** -- *Dr. Virginia Dale, Oak Ridge National Research Laboratory and Chair, EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC)*
- 8:50 a.m. **Ecological Risk Management and Decision Making at EPA** -- *Dr. Elizabeth Southerland, Director, Assessment and Remediation Division, EPA Superfund Office of Remediation and Technology Innovation*
- 9:20 a.m. **Ecological Risk Assessment – Overview of Development and Application of the Science** -- *Dr. Glenn Suter, National Center for Environmental Assessment, EPA Office of Research and Development*
- 9:50 a.m. **Strengths of Ecological Risk Assessment Process for Use in Decision Making** -- *Dr. Lawrence Barnthouse, LWB Environmental Services (tentative)*
- 10:20 a.m. BREAK
- 10:35 a.m. **Limitations of Ecological Risk Assessment Process for Use in Decision Making** -- *Dr. Lawrence Kapustka, Ecological Planning and Toxicology, Inc.*
- 11: 05 a.m. **Application of Ecological Risk Assessment in Product Health and Safety Decision Making – Ecological Risk Assessment for Regulation Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act** -- *Dr. Steven Bradbury, Director, Environmental Fate and Effects Division, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs*
- 11:50 a.m. LUNCH

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- 1:00 p.m. **Application of Ecological Risk Assessment in Management of Contaminated Sites – Case Example, Ecological Risk Assessment of the Clark Fork River Superfund Site -- Speaker TBD**
- 1:45 p.m. **Application of Ecological Risk Assessment in Natural Resources Protection – Assessing the Effects of Selenium on Aquatic Life and Water-Dependent Wildlife -- Dr. Edward Ohanian, Director, Health and Ecological Criteria Division, Office of Science and Technology, EPA Office of Water**
- 2:30 p.m. **Goals and Objectives for Breakout Sessions -- Dr. Virginia Dale, Chair, SAB Ecological Processes and Effects Committee**
- 2:45 p.m. BREAK
- 3:00 p.m. **Overview of Breakout Session Discussion Questions – Three overview breakout group sessions will be organized by ecological risk assessment type.**
- Group 1 -- Product Health and Safety Decision-Making**
- Group 2 -- Management of Contaminated Sites**
- Group 3 -- Natural Resource Protection**
- The overview breakout groups will consist of EPEC members, invited experts, and registered workshop participants. Each breakout group will begin with a brief overview of cross-cutting issues led by state, industry, environmental, and U.S. EPA perspectives. The issues will be identical for each breakout group.*
- 1) Effects of spatial and temporal scale
 - 2) Assessing risks at different biological scales (e.g., organism, population, and community)
 - 3) Problem formulation and adequacy of testable hypotheses
 - 4) Decision making in the presence of uncertainty
- Groups will also be provided the cross cutting issue charge template issues for breakout sessions to be held on Day 2. For the Day 2 sessions, each breakout group will be divided into two subgroups as shown below.*
- 4:45 p.m. **Adjourn for the Day**

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Day 2 – Wednesday, February 8

8:30 a.m. **Breakout Group Discussions** -- *The Day 2 breakout group sessions will address the following questions for each cross cutting issue.*

1. How the issue affects the operational performance of ecological risk assessment
2. How the issue affects the quality of the analysis
3. How the issue affects the utility of the output
4. What opportunities exist to reduce the impact of this issue on ecological risk assessment performance
5. Recommendations for data collection, research, and demonstrations that could mitigate the impact of this issue
6. How cross cutting issues interact.
7. Identification of other important cross cutting issues

Group #1a Ecological Risk Assessment in Product Health and Safety Decision Making – SAB Group Leader, *Dr. Gregg Biddinger, Exxon Mobil Biomedical Sciences*

- Effects of Spatial and Temporal Scale
- Assessing Risks at Different Biological Scales (e.g., organism, population, community)

Group #1b Ecological Risk Assessment in Product Health and Safety Decision Making – SAB Group Leader, *Dr. Charles Pittinger, BBL Sciences*

- Problem Formulation and Adequacy of Testable Hypotheses
- Decision Making in the Presence of Uncertainty

Group #2a Ecological Risk Assessment in Management of Contaminated Sites – SAB Group Leader, *Dr. Michael Newman, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary*

- Effects of Spatial and Temporal Scale
- Assessing Risks at Different Biological Scales (e.g., organism, population, community)

Group #2b Ecological Risk Assessment in Management of Contaminated Sites – SAB Group Leader, *Mr. Timothy Thompson, Science Engineering and the Environment*

- Problem Formulation and Adequacy of Testable Hypotheses

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- Decision Making in the Presence of Uncertainty

Group #3a Ecological Risk Assessment in Natural Resources

Protection –SAB Group Leader, *Dr. James Oris, Miami University*

- Effects of Spatial and Temporal Scale
- Assessing Risks at Different Biological Scales (e.g., organism, population, community)

Group #3b Ecological Risk Assessment in Natural Resources

Protection – SAB Group Leader, *Dr. Kenneth Dickson, University of North Texas*

- Problem Formulation and Adequacy of Testable Hypotheses
- Decision Making in the Presence of Uncertainty

12:00 p.m.

LUNCH

1:00 p.m.

Breakout Group Discussions (Continued)

2:30 p.m.

Breakout Group Reports

5:00 p.m.

Summary and Next Steps -- *Dr. Virginia Dale, Chair, SAB Ecological Processes and Effects Committee*

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn Workshop