



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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August 10, 2011

Dear Potential Stakeholder:

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to generate an Alternative Assessment Guidance Document. The guidance document will be developed in collaboration with the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse.

We are asking you to provide input on the initial scoping of the alternative assessment guidance. This input will help to ensure a clear and robust process. Ecology plans to have a **draft** guidance document compiled by December 31, 2011, and to have a **final** guidance document completed by June 2012. This timeframe is very short and will mean that there may be a need for quick input from stakeholders.

Two distinct processes will be happening concurrently. A technical team of interested states will develop a draft document on the elements of alternatives assessments. Additional interested parties will be asked to provide input throughout the development process.

Future input will be gathered from a broad array of businesses, environmental groups, academia and other interested parties through stakeholder meetings conducted via a Web based platform. If no input is received through this broad process, individuals providing input may be polled on specific questions.

The guidance document is being created for use by a wide range of entities and the stakeholder process is important in providing a transparent and openly communicated opportunity for constructive feedback to the technical team producing the guidance document.

The input provided will go to the technical team producing the guidance document. It will also be posted on the web to ensure transparency. In addition, Ecology will post specific questions and issues on the web and solicit stakeholder input. An email will be sent to all potential stakeholders notifying them of both opportunities. An announcement will also be published on Ecology's website.

The intent is to involve as many interested entities as possible in this effort while maintaining the focus of the group work. We appreciate your willingness to assist and will try to minimize the impact to your time and resources.

Although the contents and structure of the guidance document will be open to discussion, Ecology does have some initial thoughts on what will make a good guidance document. These initial scoping thoughts and a short list of open-ended questions are attached. Please respond to these questions by **September 12, 2011**.



Dr. Alex Stone, Ecology's Safer Chemical Alternative Chemist, will be heading a multi-state group to formulate the alternative assessment guidance. If you have any questions or concerns about the scoping of the guidance document and its contents, please contact him at alex.stone@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6758.

If you have questions about the stakeholder process or you have any formal comments you would like to submit for Ecology's consideration, please contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Linda Glasier, Stakeholder Coordinator
Washington State Department of Ecology
(360) 407-7355