

Questions for the September 9, 2010 meeting of the Green Ribbon Science Panel:

As background for the discussion on alternatives analyses, we provide again the attached report titled "Chemical Alternatives Methods, Models, and Tools" Revised Final Report to the Department of Toxic Substances Control August 2010. Our purpose in providing this report is to provide background on alternatives assessments. A brief presentation of the report will be made at the meeting on Sept 9th.

Chemical Alternatives Assessment is one of the key paradigm shifts of the Green Chemistry Initiative that no other governmental body has brought into a regulatory framework. Our proposal is to have a three step process in advancing this topic, with each step providing greater detail and information: (1) the initial report from UCSB about the current state of affairs in chemical alternatives assessment, (2) a compilation of CAA case studies and (3) if possible, a consensus based standardization of CAA, at some future date. Having talked to a number of firms that have already implemented a variety of CAAs, it is rather evident that we need to provide guidance as to what the department will accept and approve as a satisfactory CAA for our regulatory and non-regulatory processes. The lack of unified standards also presents a challenge for us. As such, we need input and advice from GRSP about the current state of affairs in CAA. We hope to also get input on specific CAAs to include in a compilation of case studies and lay the foundation for a possible future standardization of CAAs. Our aim is to have the case study compilation completed by January 2012.

Questions for GRSP member considerations:

Q1: Does the UCSB report capture the current state of affairs? Are there any key issues that we should include in the UCSB report?

Q2: What should be factors for consideration in making sure a compilation of CAA case studies is robust in the breadth and type of information covered? For example, should we consider product types (formulated, assembled, etc.)? Should we consider private vs. public CAA processes? Are there specific approaches/tools that we should consider? How should the compilation be organized? Are there any specific examples of failures that we should include?

Q3: Based on Q2, who are specific individuals that we should contact to provide examples and participate in the CAA case study compilation?

Q4: How should continuous improvement be factored into AA process?