



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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November 14, 2007

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Environmental Health Committee, State Board of Health—
Keith Higman and Karen VanDusen

**SUBJECT: WASHINGTON'S PERSISTENT BIOACCUMULATIVE TOXIN
STRATEGY: UPDATE FROM DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Summary

Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) are associated with a range of adverse human health effects. Due to their developmental state, fetuses and young children are at greatest risk from PBT exposure.

In 2000, the Department of Ecology published a "*Proposed Strategy to Continually Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in Washington State.*" In January 2003, Ecology began implementing a Mercury Chemical Action Plan, the first plan developed as part of the overall PBT strategy. The Mercury Education and Reduction Act of 2003 gave Ecology and the Department of Health (DOH) partnership roles in activities to reduce public exposure to PBTs. In January 2006, Ecology adopted a PBT rule, chapter 173-333 WAC, and a chemical action plan for PBDE flame retardants. Ecology is developing chemical action plans for other PBTs in partnership with DOH. The next one scheduled for completion is for lead.

The Board has supported the PBT strategy through letters to legislators. Since 2004, it has included a statement of support for the strategy in its annual policy statements on possible issues before the legislature, and in 2005 it included support for this strategy in its strategic plan.

The Board received briefings about Washington's PBT strategy in March 2001, March 2002, and December 2003. Today the Board will hear an update from Mike Gallagher, Ecology's PBT Coordinator. Also, Wayne Clifford, Director of the DOH Office of Environmental Health Assessments, is in the audience and available for questions. Please refer to materials in Tab 11.

Recommended Board Motion:

None.