



PRESS RELEASE

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ECOS Releases Findings of Survey on Emerging Contaminants

The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) is releasing today a report that contains the results of a survey of states on emerging contaminants. The report summarizes states' efforts to address Emerging Contaminants (EC).

The information was collected by ECOS to inform its positions for discussion in the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group's Emerging Contaminants Task Group, comprised of representatives of ECOS, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Defense Department.

Emerging contaminants are defined by the EC Task Group as chemicals or materials that have a real or perceived threat to human health or the environment. Emerging contaminants also lack peer-reviewed toxicity values or have values that are evolving due to new science.

The report's data were collected via a nationwide survey as part of an effort to increase the flow of EC information among government agencies and to develop comprehensive programs to manage evolving situations. Thirty-eight states responded to the survey. The results demonstrate the continuing need for and interest in cooperative work to more rapidly develop information and advance faster, less expensive solutions to institutional and technical challenges.

"We all benefit from the expanded dialogue that this survey promotes" says Eric Noack, Co-Chair of the EC Task Group and Chief of the Bureau of Waste Management with the State of Nevada. "This dialogue will be the basis for the future activities of the EC subcommittee, and will serve to expand further the network of environmental professionals engaged in this important issue."

The next steps for the EC Task Group will be to identify common policy issues unique to emerging contaminants that can be addressed by the task group, and to share the information with other organizations for their consideration.

ECOS is the national non-profit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners.