

STATE TOXICS INITIATIVES WORK GROUP

Premise:

In 1986, California voters passed the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (Proposition 65). The Act contains some of the most extreme environmental requirements yet imposed under state or federal law. The most likely effect of the law will be huge expenditures by business that represent lost opportunities to address more serious and real environmental problems. After their success in California, the proponents of the initiative are likely to seek similar laws in other states, either through initiatives or legislative action. The net result would be to steer environmental regulation away from permits and safe effluent/emission limits, to zero discharge.

Objective:

Develop and implement an industry-wide strategy to manage state toxics initiative/legislation and to minimize the adverse impact of these laws on the chemical industry.

Committee Charter:

The State Toxics Initiative Work Group will:

- o Examine, recommend and expedite implementation of generic legislative/initiative strategies which can be modified and customized for specific states.
- o Provide guidance on development of a "model" state initiative for possible introduction incorporating industry-accepted principles on groundwater, air and/or waste issues.
- o Ensure timely delivery of positions/principles to state industry organizations and other state coalitions.
- o Examine ways to focus the support and involvement of member companies in resisting undesirable Proposition 65 type state initiatives.
- o Examine ways to develop and implement a national coalition on state toxics initiative issues.
- o Calculate the resources (industry and association) needed to carry out recommended programs and activities.
- o Develop and implement a funding plan which would include an industry-wide pledge of resources and appropriate funding mechanisms.

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