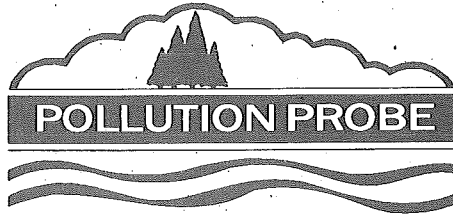


23 Years Protecting
the Environment



SMM
La protection
de l'environnement
depuis 23 ans

March 14, 1994

Ms. Sarah Miller
Canadian Environmental Law Association
517 College St., Ste. 401
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 4A2

Dear Sarah:

**RE: SUNSETTING CHEMICALS IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN:
Economic and Social Transition Planning Workshop**

Pollution Probe, the Center for Society, Technology and Values (of the University of Waterloo's Engineering Department) and the Windsor and District Labour Council Environment Project are co-sponsoring a one-day workshop on **Thursday April 14, 1994** on the topic of "SUNSETTING CHEMICALS IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN: Economic and Social Transition Planning". This workshop, which is being funded by Pollution Probe's Sunset Chemicals Project for the Great Lakes, will be held at the Ramada Hotel, 89 Chestnut St., Toronto. Please refer to the attached registration form for more details regarding workshop registration, hotel accomodations, and request for travel assistance.

We consider socio-economic issues to be a priority for communities around the Great Lakes basin, particularly as they relate to sunseting persistent toxic chemicals.

The workshop will be the culmination of three years of research and community activities undertaken by Pollution Probe on the topic of sunseting chemicals. After three years, policy makers, industry and the public have come to the understanding that pollution control is no longer an effective means of addressing the issue of toxic chemicals and that pollution prevention strategies, and sunseting chemicals are necessary and viable options. One of the major findings from Pollution Probe's



research, and an area of considerable interest at the IJC's Seventh Biennial Meeting, is that unless an economic transition strategy is developed, it will be difficult to adequately understand and address the many socio-economic issues that will need to be resolved in order to implement comprehensive sunseting regimes for persistent toxic chemicals.

In the recently released IJC Seventh Biennial Report, the IJC recommends that:

society must adopt a clear and comprehensive action plan to virtually eliminate persistent toxic substances that are threatening human health and the future of the Great Lakes ecosystem. A consensus-building process is required that will allow all sectors of society (including governments, business corporations and associations, labour unions, and professionals, consumer, and other organizations) to join in making the decisions to effect the required economic and social transition.

The purpose of the April 14th workshop, therefore, is to explore the wide range of options and concerns that relate specifically to economic transition and the implementation of a sunset chemical protocol. The following questions may be explored:

Where are we today with respect to sunseting chemicals and what are the benefits of sunseting chemicals?

- health and safety benefits, environmental benefits, economic benefits
- applying the Virtual Elimination Framework

What are the opportunities and barriers to sunseting chemicals?

- industry, labour, political motivation, economics, regulatory challenges, and community action

What do we mean by "transition planning"?

- changing economic and social structures
- healthy ecosystems = healthy communities = healthy workers

How do we ensure transition with maximum benefit and minimal disturbance?

- period and increment of phase-out
- job training
- coordinated environmental and industrial strategies

What is our strategy to make sunseting happen?

- research needs, resource requirements
- identification of key stakeholders and activists
- targeting of key decision-makers and policy-makers
- identifying the appropriate public policy forum

We plan to have thirty participants from Canada and the United States attend this one day workshop in Toronto. Invitees will include representatives of government, labour, industry, bi-national environmental groups, academics, and other interested parties.

As you can see from the topics listed above, we are anticipating a very challenging event. In order to ensure that the workshop is productive we are proposing to organize it into five segments, as follows:

1. Overview of the Issues and Sunset Context
2. Defining Transition
3. Dry Cleaning Industry Applied Case Study
4. Opportunities for Transition
5. Action Plans for Transition

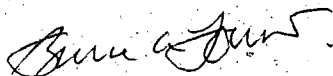
We hope that you will agree that this will be a ground-breaking workshop of significant importance to citizens and policy-makers in the Great Lakes Basin.

We intend to prepare proceedings from this workshop which will include recommendations that may be instrumental in furthering the discussion around economic transition planning and sunseting chemicals in the Great Lakes basin. At the end of the day we plan to have a specific action plan and hope to identify key individuals and organizations to implement the plan.

Since there are limited spaces available, it would be greatly appreciated if you confirm your attendance by phone or by faxing the attached registration form to Pollution Probe by Monday April 4, 1994. Limited funds for travel assistance and hotel accomodations are available for NGOs.

We look forward to your participation. If you have any questions regarding this workshop, please do not hesitate to contact Fé de Leon or Bruce Lourie at (416) 926-1907.

Sincerely yours,

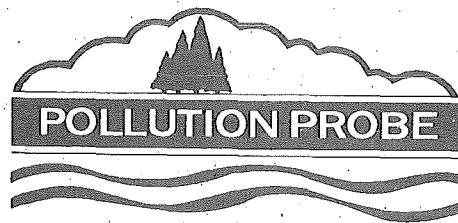


Bruce Lourie



Fé de Leon

encl.



**SUNSETTING CHEMICALS IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN:
Economic and Social Transition Planning**

DRAFT AGENDA

Location: Ramada Hotel, 89 Chestnut Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1R1
Date: Thursday April 14, 1994

Co-sponsored by Pollution Probe, the Centre for Society, Technology and Values (University of Waterloo) and the Windsor and District Labour Council - Environment Project.

8:15-8:45 Registration and Coffee

8:45-9:00 Introduction and Workshop Objectives

9:00-10:00 Overview of Sunset Chemicals and the Virtual Elimination Framework

This section will provide the overall context for the workshop and provide information so that all participants understand the issues. Where are we at with respect to sunsetting chemicals? What is the Virtual Elimination Framework and how can it be applied? What are the key policy issues? What are the social, economic and political barriers to sunsetting chemicals?

10:00-10:30 Defining Transition

What do we mean by "transition planning"? What kinds of economic and social considerations are important? How will transition planning lead us to an economy and society which is cleaner and healthier for workers, communities and ecosystems?

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Dry Cleaning Industry Case Study

We will use the Dry Cleaning Industry Case Study commissioned by Pollution Probe and prepared by Greenpeace as an example for concrete discussion on how transition planning can be applied to the sunsetting of the dry cleaning solvent perchlorethylene. Specific issues will include: 1) The role of process and technology change; 2) Assessment of alternatives; 3) Industry composition, both users and manufacturers of "perc"; 4) Benefits of phase-out to the owners, workers and customers; 5) Potential for loss of marginal operations; 6) Availability of capital; 7) Projected transition timetables; 8) Policies to stimulate positive transition.

