



# National Tribal Toxics Council

400 D Street, Suite 200 907-277-2111 Office  
Anchorage, AK 99501 1-877-335-6780 Fax

[www.tribaltoxics.org](http://www.tribaltoxics.org)

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Tribes

January 9, 2017

Tamue Gibson, M.S., DFO  
Office of Science Coordination and Policy (7201M)  
US EPA  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460-0001

RE: Nominations to the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals, Agency/Docket  
Number: EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0713 FRL-9956-17

Dear Ms. Gibson,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the nominations for the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) established pursuant to the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. The National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC, or Council) is an EPA Tribal Partnership Group (TPG) supported by the EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. The Council is focused on providing Tribes with an opportunity for greater input on issues related to toxic chemicals and pollution prevention.

The Council is acutely interested in the SACC and its future work "to provide independent advice and expert consultation, at the request of the EPA Administrator, with respect to the scientific and technical aspects of risk assessments, methodologies, and pollution prevention measures or approaches." The SACC's purpose aligns closely with the mission of the NTTC which is to advance policies and programs for pollution prevention and toxics management, consistent with the needs, interests, and unique legal status of American Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. As such, the NTTC monitors and participates in EPA and others' work regarding chemical risk assessments, exposure scenarios, chemical safety, and other environmental health and toxics work related to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the Pollution Prevention Act.

Among the Council's priorities are the protection of tribal water resources, traditional subsistence foods, and tribal lifeways. We work to address adverse health outcomes to tribal members and to tribal resources from disproportionate exposure to toxic chemicals, and to influence policy change by advocating for tribal perspectives in decision making. We support tribal environmental health initiatives by providing resources and education to help implement effective pollution prevention and chemical management programs.

The Council recognizes that the EPA considered specific criteria in selecting the 29 nominees from over 100 applicants, and it is noted that the SACC is to be comprised of experts in the key sciences of toxicology, environmental risk assessment, and exposure

assessment, as well as many related sciences. Therefore, in researching the nominees, the NTTC focused on overall experience in the key sciences, whether a nominee can be considered an expert in their field, and how a nominee's work might better inform the SACC of the unique exposures and risk that tribes face as susceptible subpopulations.

The NTTC supports the following nominees for appointment as charter members to the SACC.

Henry A. Anderson, M.D.  
Deborah Cory-Slechta, Ph.D.  
Holly Davies, Ph.D.  
William Doucette, Ph.D.  
Panos G. Georgopoulos, Ph.D.  
Kathleen Gilbert, Ph.D.  
Gary Ginsberg, Ph.D.  
John Kissel, Ph.D.  
Melanie Marty, Ph.D.  
Jaymie Meliker, Ph.D.  
Sheela Sathyanarayana MD, M.P.H.  
Daniel Schlenk, Ph.D.  
Kristina Thayer, Ph.D.  
Leonardo Trasande, MD, M.P.P.  
Laura N. Vandenberg, Ph.D.  
Christine Whittaker, Ph.D.

These professionals demonstrate expertise on the topic of risk assessments, methodologies, and pollution prevention measures and approaches. At the same time, they present diverse and extensive expertise with subtopics including:

- Toxics and fish consumption
- Susceptible subpopulations
- Genetics and epigenetics
- Water chemistry and chemical uptake by plants
- Multipathway physicochemical processes
- Environmental and biological interactions
- Age-related pharmacokinetic factors
- Public health impacts of airborne chemicals
- Early life chemical exposures
- Space-time information systems for lifetime exposure reconstruction
- Geographic analyses in environmental exposure assessment
- Exposures to endocrine disrupting chemicals including phthalates and bisphenol a
- Aquatic ecotoxicology
- Endocrinology
- Developmental origins of disease
- Biochemical mechanisms of action of pesticides, PAHs, and emerging compounds in aquatic organisms
- Evaluating the predictive utility of high throughput screening data
- Centers which focus specifically on exposure and risk science

- Understanding the role of environmental exposures in autoimmune diseases, cancer, diabetes, childhood and adult obesity, metabolic syndrome, fertility, and cardiovascular risks.

The NTTC works for creating and maintaining a cooperative exchange of information between tribes, federal partners, and other organizations that represent tribal interests in chemical risk management and pollution prevention initiatives that impact tribal lifeways. We look forward to actively partnering with the SACC and following the work they produce regarding chemicals regulated under TSCA and in the interest of health and well-being of tribes.

If you would like to discuss this further with myself of the Council, you may respond to me at 503-731-1259 or [bard@critfc.org](mailto:bard@critfc.org), or to our NTTC Coordinator, Kristin K'ait, at 907-444-5616 or [kkeit@zendergroup.org](mailto:kkeit@zendergroup.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne C. Barton".

Dianne C. Barton, Chair  
National Tribal Toxics Council

CC: EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics