



# National Tribal Toxics Council

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## Council Members

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*Coeur d'Alene Tribe*

**KELLY WRIGHT**  
*Shoshone Bannock Tribes*

February 22, 2016

Re: Chlorinated Paraffins: Request for Available Information on PMN Risk Assessments

The National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC) is an EPA Tribal Partnership group established to provide tribes an opportunity to express their concerns on issues related to toxic chemicals. The NTTC appreciates the opportunity to comment on EPA's review of industry Premanufacture Notifications (PMNs) for medium chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCP) and long chain chlorinated paraffins (LCCP). One of the NTTC's priorities is for EPA to institutionalize the evaluation of tribal exposure pathways in risk assessments in order to avoid significant impact to tribal population health from persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals, to which they are already highly exposed.

For the case of chlorinated paraffins, the NTTC supports EPA's determination that these substances in commerce present an unreasonable risk to the environment because of their PBT properties and that even minimal release from the distribution, processing and intended use of the PMN substances in commerce could impact the health of aquatic and sediment-dwelling organisms. This action is consistent with EPA's mission to protect US citizens and the environment from the potential risks of toxic chemicals.

However, the NTTC is concerned that EPA's assessment process for MCCP as documented in the "TSCA New Chemicals Review Program" report (PMN P-14-0683, P-14-0684) did not adequately consider the unique tribal exposure to these PBT chemicals. EPA's assessment only considered risks of fish ingestion at consumption rates assigned to the general population, which led to the conclusion that there were no risks to humans via fish ingestion. In addition, EPA's assessment only considered dermal and inhalation exposure risks for industry workers. The assessment did not consider for tribal populations the potential for dermal exposures from contact with contaminated sediment or plants from unique subsistence, cultural, and ceremonial activities, or for inhalation exposures from emissions resulting from open burning of household wastes at rural homes and landfills. Tribal populations tend to have contact with and exposure to these media more frequently than do the general population or industry workers.

The Council recognizes that there is limited information available to inform risk assessments for tribal communities. EPA should take a precautionary position and also request that manufacturers supply information on the eventual fate of these chlorinated paraffins compounds in fish tissue, plant tissue, sediments, and particulate deposition, in light of the potentially higher exposure to such media by tribal and subsistence community members. The Council is also concerned that EPA's actions on chlorinated paraffins are limited to PMN assessments. To limit appropriately the impact of PBT chlorinated paraffins to the environment, import restrictions, enforcement actions and compliance monitoring are also needed.

The Council looks forward to continuing early, meaningful involvement opportunities for tribes to engage on EPA risk assessment of toxic chemicals in commerce. Please send written responses to these comments to Dianne Barton, NTTC Chair, at [bard@critfc.org](mailto:bard@critfc.org).

Sincerely,

Dianne C. Barton, Chair, National Tribal Toxics Council

Cc: Barbara Cunningham, US EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Note: The Members of the Council are offering their opinions on toxics issues and do not speak for individual tribes