



Environmental Performance Agreements (EPAs)

***INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIPS***

Background

- 1997 - New Directions Group prepares report presenting essential elements for effective voluntary initiatives
- 1999 - Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development recommends a more rigorous policy for the department's approach to non-legislative agreements
- Minister approves *Policy Framework for Environmental Performance Agreements* in June 2001

Definition

An Environmental Performance Agreement (EPA) is an agreement with core design criteria negotiated among parties to achieve specified environmental results

- May be negotiated with a single company, multiple companies, regional industry association, a sector association or a number of sector associations
- Other government agencies and third parties (non-government organizations) may also be parties to such agreements

Principles and Design Criteria

➤ **Essential principles:**

- ❖ Effectiveness
- ❖ Credibility
- ❖ Transparency and accountability
- ❖ Efficiency

➤ **Core design criteria:**

- ❖ Senior-level commitment from participants
- ❖ Clear objectives & measurable results
- ❖ Clearly defined roles & responsibilities
- ❖ Provision for public consultation
- ❖ Public reporting
- ❖ Verification of results
- ❖ Incentives & consequences
- ❖ Continual improvement

Role of EPAs

- EPAs can address a wide variety of environmental issues:
 - ❖ release elimination/reductions
 - ❖ pollution prevention planning
 - ❖ supply chain management
 - ❖ extended producer responsibility
 - ❖ capacity building
 - ❖ information gathering
- EPAs will complement the regulatory framework
- EPAs represent an additional tool that Environment Canada (EC) is using to achieve its environmental protection mandate

Policy to Govern Many Tools

- ◆ Environmental Performance Agreements
- ◆ Memorandum of Understanding
- ◆ Codes of Practice
- ◆ Guidelines

The principles and design criteria are applicable to many voluntary tools especially where these include implementation mechanisms

Environment Canada's Role

- EC will support EPAs by:
 - ❖ Determining when to use EPAs
 - ⇒ Cost-effectiveness
 - ⇒ Supportive policy & regulatory framework
 - ⇒ Capacity of participants
 - ⇒ Appropriateness
 - ❖ Providing scientific & technical expertise
 - ❖ Providing incentives to support industry action
 - ⇒ Statutory discretion
 - ⇒ Recognition
 - ⇒ Technical assistance
 - ❖ Monitoring performance
 - ❖ Dealing with non-performance

Current EPAs

➤ 4 EPAs have been signed:

❖ **Refractory Ceramic Fiber (RCF) Industry**

◆ information generation & gathering

❖ **Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association (APMA)**

◆ release reductions, EMS, P2 Planning

❖ **Dow Chemical Canada**

◆ release reductions, alternative to reg.

❖ **Canadian Chemical Producers Association (CCPA)**

◆ release reductions, EMS

Next Steps

- Expand the program; work with companies that see benefits in non-regulatory approaches
- Tie program closely to delivery of Environment Canada's priorities, especially toxics management

EPAs Website: soon to be launched

EPA Policy Website: www.ec.gc.ca/epa-epe/pol/en/frameworktoc.cfm