



## Season's Greetings!



Dear clients, associates and friends,

I want to take this opportunity to thank our clients for their goodwill and confidence that they have shown in our work in over nearly 17 years; my colleagues for their hard work and support - without their expertise we could not have successfully completed more than 120 high quality consulting projects; and friends who provided invaluable encouragement and support over the years.

This year, instead of sending greeting cards, Environmental Health Strategies has made a donation to the Therapeutic Clown Program at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. In this program clowns use laughter and gentle play with patients and families to minimize stress during hospital stay.

I want to wish all of you and your families Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Prosperous 2008!

Jacob Shapiro  
Principal

**Environmental Health Strategies Inc. (EHS)** provides scientific, technical and economic advice to government and private sector clients to assist decision-making in the area of protection of human health and the environment.

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## Chemical Management Plan

In June 2004, I was invited to give a talk at the Industrial Coordinating Group (ICG) on Risk Management Observations from Canadian Case Studies. The talk was based on 13 years of experience by EHS with various chemical substances that Environment Canada was addressing in that time period.

I concluded the talk with the following observations:

- Most issues involving management of toxic substances in Canada are complex, involving availability of technologies, positioning vis-à-vis other international regulators (level playing field), and a good understanding of Canadian (federal and provincial) considerations.

*continued on page 2*

## Alternative Air Standards and Ontario Regulation 419/05

Exactly two years ago, on November 30, 2005, the MOE introduced a new comprehensive regulatory framework, O.Reg.419/05: Air Pollution - Local Air Quality, that replaced the old Regulation 346. The Ministry sees the new regulation as "a key component of Ontario's plan to reduce industrial emissions of harmful pollutants, see <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/air/ministry/index.php#alt>". It places Ontario at the leading edge of jurisdictions addressing local air quality issues by combining protective air quality standards with the most up-to-date scientific methods and practical implementation tools".

Over more than one year, EHS has been working with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) on Alternative Air Standards and Technology

*continued on page 2*

## Chemical Management Plan

*(continued from page 1)*

- The screening and prioritization of DSL is a unique exercise putting Canada at the forefront of this regulatory activity.
- Canada has taken initiative in areas where others have not.
- CEPA legislation requires federal regulators to act within a limited time frame.
- EHS' experience is that this is a time constrained process and that substantial government and industry resources will be required to address issues effectively.
- The cost of sitting on the sidelines could be substantially more than the cost of getting involved early in the process.

With the passage of 3 ½ years the federal government appears to be moving rapidly in the area of managing chemicals, see [http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/index\\_e.html](http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/index_e.html). The federal government intends to deal with approximately 200 chemical substances that were identified through the categorization process as high priorities for action. The process is proceeding in “batches” of 15-20 substances and, so far, 4 “batches” have been published with requests for further information and timetables for action.

This is a very ambitious and unprecedented agenda compared to the pace at which the federal government dealt with these issues in past. In many cases, these chemicals are used in commerce and will present a significant management challenge to both federal regulators and to industry.

## Alternative Air Standards and Ontario Regulation 419/05

*(continued from page 1)*

Benchmarking that is an important part of Ontario Regulation 419 (O.Reg.419/05).

Recognizing that some of the new, more stringent air standards will be a challenge for the industry to meet, O.Reg. 419/05 provides for a phased introduction of the new standards to different industry sectors based on a published schedule and includes a provision for application for an alternative air standard. The MOE states that “the facility applying for an alternative standard must demonstrate that it is doing the best that can be done to reduce concentrations with a goal of continual improvement towards meeting the standard over time.”

Clearly, the risk management decision on what is best is not an easy one as it involves considerable judgment and balancing of the environmental risks and costs associated with meeting the more stringent new air standards. It will be very interesting and instructive to see how the Ministry approaches this subject over the next 1-2 years as it begins to process applications for alternative air standards.

